



Notice to readers

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WACT's Christmas Madrigal Dinner Theater concludes Saturday

On Saturday, Dec. 4, in conjunction with Honeywell Arts & Entertainment, the Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) will share its biennial Christmas Madrigal Dinner Theater in the Honeywell Center's Legacy Hall. The cost is \$49 per person, which includes dinner and entertainment. Tickets may be purchased through the Honeywell Center Box Office, 275 W. Market St., by phone at 260-563-1102 or by visiting www.honeywellarts.org.

Somerset Lions Club plans 'Breakfast with Santa'

The Somerset Lions Club has planned a "Breakfast with Santa" from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Somerset Community Building, 21 W. Old Slocum Trail, Somerset. There will be a "goodie bag" for all children in attendance. Decorate your cookie. Please wear masks to protect the children. Santa will arrive at 8:30 a.m. Musical entertainment will be provided. The menu will include pancakes, biscuits, gravy and a drink for a free-will donation.

Values, Ideas and the Arts series concludes Dec. 6 at Manchester

Manchester University's Values, Ideas and the Arts series presentations are at 11 a.m. Mondays in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus. They are free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are required. Some will be live-streamed at www.facebook.com/ManchesterUniv. Check the

See **PULSE**, page A6

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Lafayette man incarcerated on multiple charges after alleged vehicle pursuit

Darron Davis, 27, arrested after allegedly crashing into ISP vehicle, fleeing

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Thursday evening, a vehicle pursuit led to the arrest of Darron Davis, 27, of Lafayette, said Indiana State Police (ISP) Peru Post public information officer Sgt. Tony

Slocum. Slocum said at approximately 11 p.m., ISP Trooper Dukengston Lavache initiated a traffic stop on a 2014 BMW sport utility vehicle. Slocum said the BMW was traveling with no license plate on Highway 24, near Indiana 115, when the driver, later identified as Davis, initially stopped. "As Lavache was walking up to the BMW to speak with Davis, he allegedly backed into Lavache's police car,"

said Slocum. "Davis then drove away leading the trooper on a vehicle pursuit." Slocum said the chase ended when the BMW crashed into a wood line on Indiana 16 near Huntington County Road 400 West. "There was no damage to Lavache's police car from the initial crash," said Slocum. Slocum said Davis was transported to Parkview Hospital in Huntington for minor cuts and scrapes. He was treated and released and then

transported to the Wabash County Jail. Slocum said further investigation revealed that Davis was driving after being deemed a habitual traffic violator. The BMW was reported stolen from an auto dealership in Lafayette. Slocum said during a subsequent search of the BMW officers allegedly found methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Davis had two active arrest warrants out of Tippecanoe County for escape

or failure to return to lawful detention and failure to appear for being a habitual traffic violator. Davis is incarcerated in the Wabash County Jail and faces criminal charges for resisting law enforcement with a motor vehicle, driving while being deemed a habitual traffic violator, leaving the scene of a property damage crash, reckless driving, possession of stolen property, possession

See **PURSUIT**, page A8

Christmas Party at the Winchester Senior Center



Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The Wabash High School Symphonaires group were providing musical entertainment Thursday at the Winchester Senior Center's annual Christmas Party.

Wabash High School Symphonaires group provides musical entertainment

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Winchester Senior Center's annual Christmas Party, reservations and "ugly sweaters" were both required. That's because in addition to the "ugly sweater contest" students from the Wabash High School Symphonaires group were providing musical entertainment.

While the audience was enjoying refreshments a group of girls from the group sang, "Mary, Did You Know?" After which, the audience seated before them applauded. "Next we'd like to take you back all the way to the



The group is directed by Mark Nevil.

1800s with a traditional French tale entitled 'Masters in This Hall.' We will be singing it in English," said director Mark Nevil, to laughter, as the performers took their places.

Up next was a vocal rendition of the "Carol of the Bells." "I like a cappella singing. There's just something about the mixed voices together," said Nevil.

After that song ended, Nevil asked the "ladies (to) move off to the side" before introducing an arrangement by Russell Robinson

See **PARTY**, page A7

Manchester Symphony Orchestra whips up Holiday Concert

Junior Mason Kniola is the first student to conduct the symphony in its 83-year history

By **ANNE GREGORY**

'Tis the season for a holiday concert, and the Manchester Symphony Orchestra has a festive lineup on Sunday, Dec. 12. The Holiday Concert is 3 p.m. in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus of Manchester University. General admission is \$15. Tickets can be ordered at www.manchestersymphonyorchestra.org or purchased at the door. Admission is

free for those 18 and younger, and for Manchester University students, staff and faculty. Masks and social distancing are required. Offerings are "Sleigh Ride" (Winter Night) by Frederick Delius; "Marche Militaire Nos. 1 and 2" by Franz Schubert; "The Skaters Waltz" ("Les Patineurs") by Émile Waldteufel; and "A Carol Symphony" by Victor Hely-Hutchinson. The Symphony conductor is Debra Lynn, and she selected Manchester University junior Mason Kniola to conduct "Marche Militaire." He is the first student to conduct the symphony in its 83-year history. McKee Mortuary in North



Provided photos

The Symphony conductor is Debra Lynn.

Manchester is the concert sponsor.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the



Manchester University junior Mason Kniola was selected to conduct "Marche Militaire." He is the first student to conduct the symphony in its 83-year history.

Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

ISDH: Local COVID-19 advisory still red; 3 new deaths reported this week

Due to heightened advisory level, local libraries instituting mask policies

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

For the second week in a row, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) labeled Wabash County's COVID-19 advisory level as red, the highest level. The last time the advisory level was this high was in February.

Meanwhile, the ISDH also reported three new local COVID-19 deaths this week. On Tuesday, Nov. 30, the ISDH reported one new local COVID-19 death, bringing Wabash County's total to 109. And on Wednesday, Dec. 1, the ISDH reported two new local COVID-19 deaths, bringing Wabash County's total to 111.

Due to this heightened community spread, local libraries have once again instituted masking policies.

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) adult department manager and marketing coordinator Jeanna Hann said that starting Wednesday, Dec. 1, properly worn face

See **ADVISORY**, page A3

City schedules Hoosier Homes Program event

Realtors, home lenders invited to Wednesday, Dec. 15 event at Wabash City Hall

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Mayor Scott Long has announced an event later this month regarding a program the city recently joined intended to help local home buyers. On Wednesday, Dec. 1, city receptionist Maria E. Smyth said Long invited all realtors and home lenders to a Hoosier Homes Program press conference at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 at Wabash City Hall Council Chambers. "Homeownership stabilizes families and communities. Best of all if you're looking to buy a home in Wabash, homeownership is possible," said Long. At 10:05 a.m. Long is scheduled to provide updates on the

See **HOMES**, page A8

‘Tis the season for lots and lots of Hanukkah junk

It's hard to do justice to ancient holy days in throw-pillow slogans. Consider the Zazzle pillow featuring a menorah with an un-orthodox number of candles, along with: "Imagine if your cellphone was at 10 percent but lasted 8 days. Now you understand Hanukkah."

Maybe not. Or how about the Bed, Bath & Beyond pillow stating: "Why is this night different from all other nights? Happy Hanukkah." Actually, that's the most famous question from rites during a Passover Seder. "There's no quality control with any of this stuff. No one's being careful with decisions about what's good and what's bad," said journalist Mira Fox of the Forward, a progressive Jewish website. "The point is to sell stuff. It doesn't need to be good stuff. It's just stuff."

"Basically, it's a lot of people saying, 'We can find a way to sell stuff to Jews during the holidays, along with selling lots of stuff to everybody else.'"

Hanukkah began rather early this year, starting at sundown on Nov. 28 and extending for eight days. This placed the "Festival of Lights" closer to Thanksgiving – near the start of the merchandizing frenzy known as The Holidays.

The story at the heart of this home-centered season dates to 165 B.C., when Jews, led by the Maccabee family, defeated Greek and Syrian oppressors. When the victors reentered their temple, only one container of ritually pure oil could be found for its eternal flame. Tradition says this one-day supply burned for eight days. Thus, Jews light menorah candles during Hanukkah – one on the first night, then increasing to

Terry Mattingly



eight. "It's not a biblical holiday. Hanukkah is not in the Hebrew Bible," said Fox. "God is not a huge part of this story. Honestly, I don't think a lot of people understand what this holiday is about."

That's certainly true in the American marketplace.

Just before Thanksgiving, friends sent veteran religion writer Mark Pinsky an ironic photo taken in a high-end grocery store. At the end of one aisle was a Hanukkah display – featuring boxes of matzoh. The unintentional joke is that matzoh is the humble flatbread eaten during Passover. The food traditionally associated with Hanukkah is a fried potato pancake called a latke.

"It's like they went to the international-food aisle and grabbed whatever was there," said Pinsky, author of books ranging from "The Gospel According to The Simpsons" to "A Jew Among the Evangelicals: A Guide for the Perplexed."

"It's like they're saying, 'Anything Jewish will do, because we need another holiday display. So, happy Hanukkah! With matzoh!'" said Pinsky. "Everything ends up being mushed together, no matter what it means – which is kind of the point of American capitalism."

This year, with Hanukkah slotted earlier in the cultural calendar, it seemed like the American commerce powers that be went out of their way – for better and for worse – to crank out extra gifts and advertisements targeting Jewish consumers, noted Fox in a deep-dive Forward

feature. It was entitled "Cheesy Hanukkah merch is everywhere now – um, that's good for the Jews, right?"

The goal, apparently, is to treat Hanukkah like Christmas – and that's Christmas, the tentpole event of the national economy, not Christmas, the ancient Christian holy day.






"There's a menorah here and a candle set there, but it's mostly wine glasses etched with 'Oy Vey!' and platters reading 'Knish me, I'm Jewish!'" wrote Fox. "If there weren't any Hanukkah options, people would be upset because of the lack of representation. But is any of this really representation? Is Walmart selling menorah-print pajamas really a sign that we've found acceptance in mainstream American culture?"

All of this is evidence of Jews being assimilated into the norms of American life, she said in an interview. Many of the motives that turned Hanukkah, a relatively minor Jewish holy day, into a landmark event on the American cultural calendar were completely logical. Jewish parents and community leaders were trying to find a way to fit in.

"What happened to Christmas happened organically" over decades or even centuries, she said. "But what happened to Hanukkah was a very conscious choice. Rabbis and other people decided to turn Hanukkah into this big celebration. Basically, they were saying, 'Let's let our children have fun, too.'"





Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Saturday Mostly Sunny 49 / 32	 Sunday Showers Likely 59 / 33	 Monday Mostly Cloudy 40 / 24	 Tuesday Chance Rain & Snow 37 / 29	 Wednesday Rain & Snow Possible 42 / 30
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:19 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:48 a.m.

 New 12/4	 First 12/10	 Full 12/18	 Last 12/26
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 49°, humidity of 50%. North northeast wind 7 to 11 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 32°. East northeast wind 7 to 11 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 26°.



Provided photo

The event raised \$15,023, which was matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor.

Waypoint's first dodge ball tournament fundraiser a success

The organization raised \$15,023, which was matched by an anonymous donor

STAFF REPORT

Waypoint has announced that on Saturday, Nov. 27, the organization hosted its first dodge ball tournament fundraiser on Miami Street, according to Abby Waldon.

Sponsored by wellness-company, Undaunted Leadership, Coaching & Wholeness, the event raised \$15,023, which was matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor.

All proceeds are directly invested in the new transitional home, Waypoint, planned to open in early 2022.

Sixteen teams participated in the dodge ball tournament, which ended with "Game of Throws" finishing in third place, "Don't Stop Ballieving" finished in second place, and the "UNDAUNTED Purple Cobras" were named the tournament champion. The award for the best-dressed team was given to "Don't Stop Ballieving." A special MVP Award for the 2021 Waypoint Dodgeball Tournament was presented to Hayley Renbarger "for her outstanding role in planning and executing the successful fundraiser."

Dr. Neil Bever of Hoosier Chiropractic served as the MC for the day, "often light-heartedly fining players for poor throws or funny dance moves on and off the courts."

Brian Sprague served as the DJ with support from Wabash Music.

Todd Shear, Barry Stroup, Tyler Olson and

Mike Davis volunteered as the referees.

Numerous individuals and businesses sponsored the event through donations and teams.

UNDAUNTED Leadership, Coaching & Wholeness, Fast Path Data & Electronic, INGUARD, Hoosier Chiropractic, Indy Wealth Advisors, Visit Wabash County, BCR CPA Group, Nate's Lawn & Landscape, First Farmers Bank & Trust, West Plains Mining, Metal Source, Wabash Steel Supply, East Hill, 4 Partners in Crime and Erect Tec were contributors to the fundraising event.

Individual donors included Ty and Hayley Renbarger, Todd and Angel Shear, Ashely Graves, Brent and Susan Dawes, Brooks and Christine Flohr, Steve and Emily Myers, Eric Yap, Ian Clark, Kevin Shaw, Laura Schmitt, Mandy Shull, Nathan Zimmerman, Randy and Julie Dickey, Ryan Rediger and Chelsea Beauchamp, Tim's Thai 2 Go, Melissa Ford-Kalbfell, Patrick and Amy Sullivan and Ryan Evans.

"We surpassed our goal of having 10 teams play," said Waypoint Dodgeball Tournament committee member Hayley Renbarger. "It was an absolute blast to relive our recess days of middle school for a really great cause like Waypoint. People will have to check out our social media for photos of the event. They are fantastic."

Waypoint is a transitional living environment dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle for women living in recovery.

Led by a local volunteer board of directors, the organization has been seek-

ing funding for the renovation phase of the new facility located at 189 N. Wabash St.

"Waypoint's mission of creating lasting change in Wabash is the reason I actively joined the board of directors," said Waldon. "We have an under-served population that has the opportunity to positively contribute to our community. With life coaching and a champion on their side, I am confident that Waypoint can provide that path."

Through a partnership with the city of Wabash and the Waypoint Board of Directors, the future Waypoint property was purchased from Indiana Landmarks and is currently being renovated to serve as a place where women can learn to live in recovery while in transition.

"I cannot say thank you enough to every single person who helped plan this event, who showed up to play, and who donated to Waypoint. Together we are creating a very special place that we can all be proud of," said Waypoint Board of Directors president Marilyn Custer-Mitchell, who offered the welcoming remarks to kick off the event. "Hayley (Renbarger), Abby (Waldon), and Sarah (Lochner) found an innovative way to connect more people with the mission of Waypoint. I couldn't be more pleased with its success."

Donations are still being accepted via the Community Foundation of Wabash County which serves as the fiscal agent for Waypoint.

All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, call 260-982-4824.

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Wabash Plain Dealer

VOL. 163 NO. 95

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Circulation

■ Customer Service
260-563-2131

Telephone Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

■ Delivery: Your newspaper is delivered by the USPS and will arrive with your daily mail.

■ Missed your paper? We sincerely hope not, but if you did please contact your local post office. To verify that your account is active, call us at 260-563-2131.

■ Home delivery subscription rates: 13 weeks, \$59.50. EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65.

Other payment options available

by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

■ There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

Advertising

■ 260-563-2131 (after hours, press 5 for advertising)

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■ Legals: legals@wabashplaindealer.com

■ Retail: cbrown@wabashplaindealer.com

USPS 663-940

Wabash Plain Dealer
established September 1858

Published Wednesdays and Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

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Obituaries

Teresa Ann Vigar

July 2, 1954 – Dec. 2, 2021

Teresa Ann Vigar, 67, of rural Roann, Indiana, died at 9:30 am, Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at her home in Roann. She was born on July 2, 1954, in Wabash, Indiana, to Harold D. and Patricia Ann (Melton) Bowman.

Teresa was a 1972 graduate of Northfield High School. She married David L. Vigar at the Roann Christian Church on January 1, 1980. She worked at Heckman Bindery in North Manchester, Indiana retiring in November 2020, after more than 30 years. Teresa was a member of the Wabash Eagles Lodge. She enjoyed shopping, playing scratch off lottery tickets, and was a contestant on the Hoosier Millionaire Television Show.

She is survived by her husband, David L. Vigar of Roann, three children, Brad (Lesley) Vigar of Urbana, Indiana, Matt Vigar and Detre (Scott) Jones, both of Denver, Indiana, seven grandchildren, Austin (Kaylee) Shively of Richvalley, Indiana, Tyler (Brienne) Vigar of Versailles, Indiana, Anthony Tooley of Denver, Alicia Tooley of Peru, Indiana, Brady Vigar of Monticello, Indiana, Kaylyn Jones of Minnesota, and Brennen Vi-



gar of Urbana, 6 great grandchildren, and her sister, Camille (Ted) Ternet of South Whitley, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her parents, and two sisters, Sherry Gray and Kathy Hammock. Funeral services will be 2:00 pm, Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Roann Chapel, 335 S. Chip-pewa Rd., Roann, with Kurt Snyder officiating. Burial will be in Roann Community Cemetery. Friends may call 12:30 – 2:00 pm Monday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Roann Covered Bridge Festival.

The memorial guest book for Teresa may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Roland D. Shepherd

Roland D. Shepherd, 85, North Manchester, Indiana, passed away Dec. 1, 2021.

Roland D. Shepherd will be remembered by his sons, Ken-ny (Joyce) Shepherd and Scott (Angie) Shepherd; daughters, Tammy Walters, Becky Nic-cum, and Sandy Blevins; sister, Linda (Mark) Crooks; sixteen grandchildren; thirty-three great-grandchildren; and an aunt, Ella Moore. Ro-

land was preceded in death by his wife Lois Shepherd; brothers, Delmer Shepherd, Louie Shepherd, and Ron Whitaker; and grandson, Christopher Lee Shepherd.

Calling is Saturday, Dec. 4, 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Man-ches-ter. Funeral services be-gin at the conclusion of call-ing.

Jay A. Feters

Jay A. Feters, 72, North Manchester, passed away Dec. 1, 2021.

Jay A. Feters is survived by fiancé, Alice (Jamison) Metzger; sons, Gabriel “Gabe” (Alicia) Feters and Benjamin “Ben” Feters; brothers, Bruce (Carol) Feters and Dwight (Brenda) Feters; sister, Judy Bays; grandchildren, Trevor McIn-tosh, Kaylee Feters, Vincent

Feters and one great-grand-son.

Calling is Monday, Dec. 6, 2021 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Old German Baptist Brethren Church, 12546 North State Road 13, North Manchester, Indiana. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Old German Baptist Breth-ren Church.

Mona L. Dalton

Mona L. Dalton, 62, Hun-tington, formerly of North Manchester, Indiana, passed away on Dec. 1, 2021.

The memory of Mona L. Dal-ton will be forever cherished by her sons, Zachary Reahard, and Corey Dalton; daugh-ter, Toccara Lynn (William Stetzel) Kellam; step-mother, Kathleen Reahard; brother,

Charles Christopher (Cathy) Reahard; sister, Helen (Den-nis) Baer; step-brothers, Alan Peden Jr., Bobby (Mona) Bigham, and one grandson, Maddix Bussard.

A celebration of life will be held on Dec. 11, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the American Legion Sunset Post 402, Laketon, Indiana.

Alice Joy Howard

Alice Joy Howard, 80, of Pierceton, Indiana, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021.

The loving memory of Alice Joy Howard will be forever cherished by her son, Michael (Kandi) Howard; brother, Edward Herendeen; seven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Calling is Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Free United Baptist Church, 7035 South State Road 13, Sidney, Indiana. Fu-neral services will begin at the conclusion of calling. Burial will be at Hillcrest Cemetery, 7015 East 350 South, Pierce-ton, Indiana with Pastor Ward Etsie Allen officiating.

Betty L. Gall

Betty L. Gall, 68, North Manchester passed away on Nov. 30, 2021 at Peabody Healthcare Center in North Manchester, Indiana.

The loving memory of Betty Gall will be forever cherished by her many cous-ins and several friends. She

was preceded in death by one brother, James R. Gall and her dear friend, Sharon Crago.

Services will be held at a later date.

The family of Betty Gall has entrusted McKee Mortu-ary with final arrangements.

Dennis Jessee

Dennis Jessee, 80, of Wabash, Indiana, died December 2, 2021 at his home. Funeral will be 2:00 pm, Tuesday, at Grand-

staff-Hentgen Funeral Ser-vice, 1241 Manchester Ave., Wabash. Visitation one hour prior. Burial in Friends Cemetery.

Diana Lynn Judy

Funeral services for Di-ana Lynn Judy are 11:00 am, Saturday, at Grand-staff-Hentgen Funeral Ser-

vice, Wabash. Friends may call from 9:30-11:00 am Saturday, at the funeral home.

Terry Poole

Services for Terry Poole are 10:30 am, Tuesday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Fu-neral Service, Wabash.

Burial in Falls Cemetery. Visitation is 9:30-10:30 am Tuesday, at the funeral home.

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICES

Asbury Country Church

At the Sunday, Dec. 5 service at Asbury Country Church, 1998 E. 250 South, the Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service at 10:30 a.m. The worship and music leader will be Amy Bullick and the piano will be Cathy Staggs. The morning message by Pastor Mike Bullick will be “Waiting and Watching.”

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ

Online services are available by visiting www.bachelorcreek.com.

Christ United Methodist Church

Worship service will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChristUMCWabash/.

Christian Heritage Church

Streaming services online and broadcast on 95.9 FM.

College Corner Brethren Church

College Corner Breth-ren Church is now hold-ing in-person services at 10:15 a.m. Sundays at 8996 S. 500 West, with Pastor Solomon David. The ser-mons are still on YouTube and Facebook.

Common Ground Prayer House

The Common Ground Prayer House will be open to the public from 8 to 10 a.m. Mondays, except holidays, at 78 W. Hill St. For more information, call Jennifer Mahan at 260-571-8063, Shirley Neale at 260-591-0047 or Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072.

Dora Christian Church

A recorded sermon will also be available for view-ing on the Dora Christian Church Facebook group by the morning of Sunday, Dec. 5.

LaFontaine Christian Church

The LaFontaine Christian Church pre-records the ser-mon which is then available for all to view at www.lafontainechristian.com under the sermons tab, stated Pas-tor Brad Wright.

LaFontaine United Methodist Church

Pastor Susan Shambaugh says that her LaFontaine United Methodist Church is showing replay videos on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LaFontaine-United-Methodist-Church>. In-

person services start at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

Lincolnvile United Methodist Church

Lincolnvile United Meth-odist, 5848 E. 500 South, is going back to one wor-ship service. The worship service is at 10 a.m., and Sunday school is at 9 a.m. We started celebrating the Advent season Sunday, Nov. 28. The candle of hope was lit. On Sunday, Dec. 5, the candle of peace will be lit. At 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, the cantata “I’ll be Home for Christmas – a ready to Christmas” cre-ated by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin – will be performed by the choir. On Friday, Dec. 24, a Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. Holy Communion will be received. Come wor-ship with us celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. For more information, email pastor-john1954@gmail.com or call 260-563-1406.

Living Faith Lutheran Church

Welcome to our in-person worship service at 10:10 a.m. Sundays at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 242 S. Huntington St. Bible study and Sunday school are at 9 a.m. for all ages. The sanctuary is arranged for social distancing. Masks are encouraged and available. Online services are at 10:10 a.m., with pre-service music at 10 a.m. For virtual services and more information, visit www.livingfaithwabash.org.

Manchester Church of the Brethren

Pastor Kurt Borgmann from the Manchester Church of the Brethren stated they will hold a live-stream service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday by visiting www.manchestercob.net. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the black button that says, “Manchester CoB YouTube Channel.” After the service is finished, one may access a video copy of the live stream in the same way. Another way to access the live stream or posted vid-eo: go to YouTube, search “Manchester Church of the Brethren,” and click on the circle profile.

North Manchester Congregational Christian Church

Pastor Sebrena Cline stated live-streaming be-gins on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sundays for the North Manchester Congregational Christian Church, and lasts 30 to 40 minutes.

North Manchester Missionary Church

The North Manches-ter Missionary Church is streaming live on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday. The video is then placed on their webpage, which can be viewed by vis-iting NMMC1.com.

Olive Branch Church of God

The Olive Branch Church of God live-streams Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Find it through Facebook, by searching Olive Branch Church, or by visiting www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch or through the church website www.olivebranch.church. Click “Live Streaming” at the top, then click the series icon (lion head).

Richvalley United Methodist Church

Worship at Richvalley United Methodist Church begins at 9:30 a.m. Sun-days at 290 N. Jefferson St. Sunday school begins at 10:45 a.m. For more infor-mation, call 260-563-1033 or email rvumc@hotmail.com.

Southside Free Will Baptist

Streaming on their Face-book page.

Sweetwater Assembly of God

Streaming services online using the normal service schedule.

Urbana Yoke Parish

Rev. Larry Wade of the Urbana Yoke Parish stated that his congregation posts Sunday services to www.urbanayokeparish.com. Go to the menu line at the top of the page and select “Worship Videos.” The most recent one will appear first. Sunday services are posted by noon every Tues-day.

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Welcome to Wabash Christian Church (Disci-ples of Christ), 110 W. Hill St. In-person worship is at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morn-ings in the sanctuary or via live-stream for the church at home on the Wabash Chris-tian YouTube Channel. Ac-cess is also available on our Facebook page and website wabashchristian.org. Stephen Eberhard is the Min-ister.

Wabash Church of the Brethren

At Wabash Church of the

Brethren, 645 Bond St., ser-vices will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday in person. Masks are recommended. There is no children’s church or Sunday school at this time. You may reach Pastor Doug Veal at the church office, 260-563-5291, on his cell phone at 260-225-3014, or by email at pastordoug@wabashcob.org.

Wabash Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Kirk Johnson, of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene, stated their service is available on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Find it by going to YouTube and search for “Wabash Nazarene” or search Facebook for the Wabash Church of the Nazarene. Another option is to visit www.wabashnaz.com, look for the home page, and find “Latest Sermon.”

Wabash First Church of God

In the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 5 at Wabash First Church of God, 525 N. Miami St., Pastor Robb Rensberger will speak on “Serve To-gether.” The sermon can also be seen on YouTube under Wabash 1st Church and heard at 11 a.m. Sun-day on 105.9 FM. Sun-day Servants are Dorothy Carpenter, chairperson; Sue White, worship; Rose Sands and Nancy Kolb, special music; Rose Sands, organ; and Nancy Kolb, pi-ano.

Walk by Faith Community Church

At the Walk by Faith Com-munity Church in Roann, Sunday school begins at 9 a.m. and the worship and children’s worship services begin at 10 a.m. The Walk by Faith Youth ministry meets at 5 p.m. every Sun-day. “All are welcomed and we would love for you to join us,” said Pastor Judy Tyner. For more informa-tion, visit www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com.

Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash

Pastor Jerry Gauthier says that the Zion Luth-eran Church of Wabash is streaming through their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/zionwabash at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sen-tences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

ADVISORY

From page A1

masks would be required in-side the library.

Hann said the change was due to the county’s red sta-tus and would apply until that level returned to orange, the second-highest level.

“The library staff will in-crease sanitation measures for materials and the facili-ty. The use of masks, hand sanitizers, and social dis-tancing practices are still recommended. If patrons do not have a mask, a free one will be provided at the front desk,” said Hann. “If you are uncomfortable com-ing into the library for any reason, NMPL encourages patrons to use their curbside service or Libby, NMPL’s free e-library.”

On Thursday, Dec. 2, Wabash Carnegie Public Library (WCPL) executive director Ware W. Wimberly said their policies would be reviewed at their upcoming board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 14, and may change.

“We are keeping abreast of the (ISDH) level alert for Wabash County,” said Wim-berly. Wimberly said when Wa-

bash County reaches the red level, as it is now, they “strongly advise library patrons to wear masks and have ones available for pa-trons to use.”

“We are not making it mandatory for library users in the building but would strongly recommend them. Staff is required to wear masks when working in a public area in the library,” said Wimberly.

Wimberly said when the level returns to orange, masks would be optional for both staff and library pa-trons.

However, Wimberly said due to the red status al-li-brary programming indoor is currently being done with take-home kits or virtually.

Wimberly said once the level went back orange they would resume indoor pro-gramming with optional masks for participants and staff.

“We do offer curbside service upon request for patrons. The library also provides many digital re-sources such as Hoopla and Overdrive library customers can access online with a li-brary card,” said Wimberly. “Facemasks available to patrons inside the building are free and (we) ask library

users to utilize them.”

All this news comes as the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Wa-bash County has surpassed 6,200 and local vaccination rates continue to lag behind the state average. In the zip code 46992, which compris-es Wabash, 40.5 percent of the eligible population has been vaccinated. Statewide, that figure sits at 53 percent, as of Friday, Dec. 3.

The eligible population for vaccinations increased earlier last month as the minimum age was lowered from 12 to 5. On Wednes-day, Nov. 3, the ISDH an-nounced that Hoosiers ages 5 to 11 are now eligible for a free COVID-19 vac-cine following the previous day’s authorization of the pediatric vaccine by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for use in individuals under age 18.

On Friday, Nov. 19, the ISDH announced that any Hoosier age 18 or older can now receive a booster dose of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines if they received their second dose at least six months ago. Earlier that same day, the

CDC approved the admin-istration of a booster dose of both vaccines for people aged 18 and older following the Food and Drug Admin-istration (FDA) decision to expand its Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for boosters. Previously, the FDA had approved a third dose for immunocompro-mised individuals and had allowed boosters for indi-viduals who met certain cri-teria.

Individuals may still choose which COVID-19 vaccine to receive as a booster shot. Some peo-ple may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. Individuals who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eligible for a booster two months or more after their initial dose.

Parents who wish to schedule an appointment for their child to receive the vaccine and Hoosiers age 18 and older who want to ob-tain a booster dose may visit www.ourshot.in.gov or call 211 or 866-211-9966.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 15:33

Fund local journalism to help communities

A portion of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act (LJSA) was included in the recent Build Back Better bill that was passed in the House. The LJSA, which has bipartisan support in the House, provides needed support for local journalists across the U.S. and is now being considered in the Senate.

While there has been tremendous support for the LJSA overall, there have been some pundits who have questioned whether government support for local journalists will maintain a free press. One such claim recently came from The Wall Street Journal in an opinion piece asserting the LJSA is "a subsidy for local journalists, most of whom are left of center." Local newspaper readers need to understand this claim is not only misleading but is also incorrect. While the writers at The Wall Street Journal or The New York Times may be interested in demonstrating how right or left of the center they are, most journalists at local newspapers are dedicated to the news of their community without a slant in either direction.

One of the reasons the LJSA has gained so much support is the focus on protecting local journalism. The LJSA is designed to help local journalists in local communities and not the national media. Outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Huffington Post, CNN, Fox and others won't qualify for support as they have too many

employees or don't produce local news. The creation and consumption of local news is different than national news, and according to a 2019 Knight-Gallup study, more people believe their local news organizations are accomplishing most of the key tasks of informing their communities, significantly higher than national outlets. Without a local news organization, where else can a community get information about their local school board, the mayor's race and other important components of community life?

The LJSA also provides even the smallest newspapers with a bridge to continue their digital evolution. Most local newspapers receive no compensation from Big Tech companies such as Facebook or Google for use of their content. While The Wall Street Journal may be able to negotiate a deal with Google to be paid for use of its content, most small newspapers don't have that option, and they are challenged to find the resources to provide the news that is critically needed by their communities. This additional resource will provide the local news industry time to continue its transition to a more digital future and to work out a better arrangement either through legislation or other means to be paid when Google and Facebook use their content.

The LJSA is also not a permanent handout for the industry. It's a tax credit that sunsets in five years and

is structured to incentivize all local news organizations to retain and even hire more journalists to cover their communities. While some hedge-fund-owned newspaper companies and other major corporations will benefit from the tax credits, the real winners will be the communities they serve. For the thousands of small independently-owned newspapers across the U.S., particularly in rural communities without other viable news sources, the LJSA will mean that they have a much better chance of staying afloat.

We strongly encourage the Senate to support the elements of the LJSA in the Build Back Better bill. We are appreciative of Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, and the many co-sponsors of this bill who understand how important it is for all communities to have a strong local news voice; when it is lost, everyone loses.

And that has no slant to the right or the left.

This editorial was written by America's Newspapers CEO Dean Ridings. On behalf of its approximately 1,600 newspaper and associate member companies, America's Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. They emphasize educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building community identity and the success of local businesses. For more information, visit www.newspapers.org.



School shootings cannot be the price of 'freedom'

Tate Myre, 16, was a star athlete who had been good enough to play on Oxford High's varsity football team as a freshman. Madison Baldwin, 17, was a senior who loved art and literature and already had been accepted by several colleges. Hana St. Juliana, 14, was a budding basketball player who was just starting her high school career. Justin Shilling, 17, was a senior who captained the bowling team and worked at a popular local Lebanese restaurant called Anita's Kitchen.

They are all dead, killed this week in the latest of the school shootings our society accepts as routine. To four families suffering unimaginable grief, to the hundreds of other students who are traumatized for life, to a community that will never be the same, we say: Tough.

We say: Unlucky you.

We say: Too bad about your loss, but that's the price of freedom. I wonder if the people of Oxford, Mich., feel they have more freedom today than they did before Tuesday, when a 15-year-old sophomore allegedly brought a 9mm SIG Sauer pistol to the Oxford High School campus and fired more than 30 rounds at students and teachers — killing Myre, Baldwin, St. Juliana and Shilling, and wounding seven others.

Where have we heard this before? According to various published reports, the alleged killer, Ethan Crumbley, once was a happy kid who seemed to have undergone a change. He was troubled. Seemed alienated. Didn't quite fit in. Kept to himself. Dressed all in black.

There are kids like that in high schools around the world. But only in the United States do we enable them to express their teenage

Eugene Robinson



or an assault rifle than to work up the courage to ask a classmate out on a date.

"If the incident yesterday with four children being murdered and multiple kids being injured is not enough to revisit our gun laws, I don't know what is," Oakland County prosecutor Karen McDonald said Wednesday. She has charged Crumbley as an adult with murder, terrorism and other crimes.

But McDonald must know in her heart that no, it's not enough. It's never enough. The 2018 high school shooting in Parkland, Fla., that killed 14 students and three adults was not enough. The 1999 Columbine shooting, with its 13 innocent victims, was not enough. Even the 2012 massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., in which 20 first- and second-graders were killed, was not enough.

At this point, it looks safe to assume that no atrocity will ever be enough for our elected officials — in Congress, state legislatures, city councils — to pass laws tough enough to actually keep guns and ammunition out of the hands of would-be school shooters. And if, by some miracle, meaningful gun-control legislation ever did get enacted, such laws might well be struck down by the activist, arch-conservative six-justice majority on the Supreme Court. I'll believe their purported

"textualism" and "originalism" are sincere when they acknowledge that the Second Amendment was written for muskets and flintlocks, not AR-15s and SIG Sauer.

McDonald did say that she is also considering filing charges against Crumbley's parents. The boy's father reportedly bought the pistol just days earlier. "We know that owning a gun means securing it properly and locking it and keeping the ammunition separate and not allowing access to other individuals, particularly minors," McDonald told the Detroit Free Press.

Daniel Webster, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy, told The Post that "if you look at school shootings, the overwhelming majority are committed by students, and the overwhelming majority of those students have guns that they brought from their homes or a relative's home."

But it is unclear whether there is any Michigan statute under which Crumbley's father and mother could be prosecuted. Even in states that have laws requiring gun owners to store their weapons safely and prevent children from accessing them, penalties are generally toothless. The National Rifle Association sees even common-sense safety legislation as a threat to freedom.

Meaning freedom to kill. And freedom to die.

We cannot be so callous that we see four promising young lives snuffed out and simply shrug in mute acceptance. If all we can do is scream, we must scream at the top of our lungs: Guns are not making us safe. They are killing us, and they are killing our children.

Eugene Robinson's email address is eugenerobinson@washpost.com.

LETTER

Census Bureau releases new report on veterans

On June 2, 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau released a report on veterans entitled "Census Bureau Releases New Report on Veterans" in their online newsletter. It gives a clear indication of where the country is right now relative to the size and demographics of the veteran population.

Our grossly under-compensated disabled veterans have taken note. They have had over a year now to digest the report and understand clearly that our government can more than afford to compensate them fairly. Since they have been asking Congress and various Administrations for fair compensation since the end of World War I in 1918, and since that was 103 years ago, they ask you, "Where is the money?"

"A new report released today by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that while the overall population of veterans is declining, the number of female veterans is on the rise and Post 9-11 veterans have the highest rate of service-connected disability compared to any other group of veterans," according to the release. "The report, 'Those Who Served: America's Veterans From World War II to the War on Terror,' looks at the characteristics of the 18.0 million or about 7 percent of the adult population who were veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2018."

Highlights include:
The number of veterans in the United States declined by about a third, from 26.4 million to 18.0 million between 2000 and 2018.

Fewer than 500,000 World War II veterans were alive in 2018, down from 5.7 million in 2000.

Women make up a growing share of veterans. About 1.7 million, or 9 percent of veterans, were women in 2018. It is projected that number will jump to 17 percent by 2040.

The largest cohort of veterans alive in 2018 served during the Vietnam Era (6.4 million), which lasted from 1964 to 1975. The second-largest cohort of living veterans served during peacetime only (4.0 million).

The median age of veterans in 2018 was 65. By service period, Post-9/11 veterans were the youngest with a median age of about 37; Vietnam Era veterans had a median age of about 71; and World War II veterans were the oldest with a median age of about 93.

Veterans from recent service periods have the highest levels of education. More than three-quarters of Post-9/11 and Gulf War veterans had at least some college experience, and more than one-third of Gulf War veterans had a college degree.

Post-9/11 veterans had a 43 percent chance of having a service-connected disability, after accounting for differences in demographic and social characteristics among veterans — significantly higher than that of veterans from other periods.

Among veterans who had a service-connected disability, Post-9/11 veterans had a 39 percent chance of having a disability rating of 70 percent or more — significantly higher than for veterans from other periods.

Let me tell you how they measure their compensation needs against the government's ability to deliver.

In 2022 a totally disabled veteran with no dependents is compensated at the ridiculous rate of \$39,984.72 annually. The National Average Wage Index (NAWI) for 2020 was \$55,628.60 per annum and the median income for 2020 was \$67,521.00. The per capita GDP in 2020 was \$63,416, among the highest in the world. This rate of compensation to disabled veterans is deliberate and cruel.

If a special tax is needed to pay them fairly in the brokenness that we caused then there is still a solution that is obvious to them.

We can levy at least a penny tax on every dollar traded on the stock market to pay off the national debt. It is time for the Investor Class to pay back what they have stolen out of the people's coffers in the GOP enforced 2018 tax relief scam.

The New York Stock Exchange alone traded about 1.46 billion shares a day in 2019. There are presently 13 separate stock exchanges operating in the USA.

This disgrace is now a grave national security situation. Once our young people fully understand that entering the armed forces and then getting seriously ill or injured means a lifetime of near poverty for them then the armed forces will collapse. And it will happen very quickly. It will take 40 years to rebuild it to proper and safe levels of manning. All of this is because we want to continue to allow our elites to hide their money from the IRS and refuse to be fairly taxed on their immense wealth.

Please introduce legislation as soon as possible in the 117th Congress to set compensation at least at the level of the National Average Wage Index for all types of totally and permanently disabled veterans.

Give federal income tax exclusion to all types of totally and permanently disabled veterans for all income regardless of source up to \$125K per annum.

Justin Ruch
Columbia City

Lifestyles



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

Homemade holidays

During this season of giving, keep your gifts rich and real with homemade and locally sourced products, foraged decorations and repurposed items. A gift need not be pricey or fancy, and when it's homemade, it conveys a personal, meaningful touch. Look to your community and Mother Nature for inspiration.

There's an abundance of natural gifts and decor outside our doors and growing right under our feet. Seek out artisanal and handmade items, homemade food and drink, garden citrus and clipped branches, kitchen spices and Mason jars to converge,



inspire and create thoughtful gifts for friends and family. This DIY gift basket includes all the fixings to make mulled wine. Mulled wine, also known as glwein, glogg and vin chaud, is universally pleasing. It's a winter staple, from holiday markets to the ski slopes to a cozy chair in front of the fireplace on a cold night. Who wouldn't want to curl up with a fragrant mug of vino – especially one fortified with spirits and fruit, laced with cinnamon and spice?

To make a gift of it, write the recipe on a decorative card to ensure proper allocation of the basket ingredients. The recipe is a keeper, and the ingredients ... well, as you can see, while they are certainly key to the recipe, they can also be enjoyed on their own or put to another use.

In this case, a bottle of port

and red wine, a little shot of orange liqueur, and sachets of spices and dried fruit are assembled in a basket with a few sprigs and leaves plucked from the winter garden to make a seasonal kit. Of course, this is a template, and if you have a favorite holiday drink, then change up the recipe accordingly – you get the gist of it.

Homemade Mulled Wine
Active time: 20 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
Yield: Serves 5 to 6

Syrup:
1 cup port wine
1/2 cup fresh orange juice
1/4 cup orange liqueur, such as Gran Marnier or Cointreau
2 tablespoons light brown sugar
Zest of one untreated orange
1 cinnamon stick
1 teaspoon whole cloves

1/2 teaspoon black peppercorns
1 (750ml) bottle full-bodied fruit-forward red wine
1/4 cup raisins, soaked in port wine or orange liqueur for at least 20 minutes
Cinnamon sticks or orange slices for garnish

Combine the syrup ingredients in a pot and bring to a boil. Simmer until reduced by about half, about 12 to 15 minutes.

Add the wine to the syrup. Cover the pot and gently warm over medium-low heat, without letting the wine come to a boil. Taste, and if you prefer a sweeter drink, stir in additional brown sugar to your desired sweetness.

Strain into mugs. Add a spoonful of raisins to each mug and garnish with an orange slice or cinnamon stick.

How long can you keep leftovers in the refrigerator?

By **DANA SPARKS**
Mayo Clinic News Network (TNS)

From leftovers in your lunch to planning a meal for family and friends, keeping food safe is important. Food poisoning – also called foodborne illness – is caused by harmful germs, such as bacteria, in contaminated food. Because bacteria typically doesn't change the taste, smell or look of food, you can't tell whether it's dangerous to eat. So if in doubt, throw it out.

Fortunately, proper cooking and food handling can prevent most cases of food poisoning.

To practice food safety:

- Quickly refrigerate perishable foods, such as meat, poultry, fish, dairy and eggs.
- Don't let food sit more than two hours at typical room temperature or more than one hour at temperatures above 90 F.
- Uncooked foods, such as cold salads or sandwiches, also should be eaten or refrigerated promptly.

Your goal is to reduce the time a food is in the "danger zone" – between 40 F and 140 F – when bacteria can quickly grow.

If you're going on a picnic or hosting a cookout, you should:

- Keep cold foods in a cooler with ice



Dreamstime / TNS

Leftovers can be kept for three to four days in the refrigerator.

or frozen gel packs until ready to serve.

- To preserve quality and safety, consider resting a container or plate of cold items on a bed or bowl of ice.
- Have a separate cooler for drinks since this cooler will be opened more frequently and affect the temperature.

While you shouldn't use slow cookers to reheat food, you can use them to maintain the temperature of foods that are already hot. Keep your food at or above 140 F, usually on a low-temperature setting. Tip: This is an option when you're feeding a large group and need to keep hamburgers or meat from the grill hot.

Leftovers can be kept for three to four days in the refrigerator. After that, the risk of food poisoning increases. If you don't think you'll be able to eat leftovers within four days, freeze them immediately. When ready to eat leftovers, reheat them on the stove or in a conventional oven or microwave until the internal temperature reaches 165 F.

New rule will allow debt collectors to track you down on social media

One byproduct of the pandemic has been more debtors, and now collection agencies have new ways to track down the people who owe them money.

So watch out who you connect with on Instagram or befriend on Facebook. It could be a debt collector contacting you through a direct message.

Debt collection rules that went into effect Tuesday have expanded the ways debt collectors can chase down debtors. In practice, it may mean millions of consumers can now be bombarded with email and text messages and requests



to connect on their social media accounts.

The changes to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), which is intended to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, were introduced during the Trump administration when the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) became friendlier to the business community.

The CFPB director at the time, Kathy Kraninger, a Trump appointee who resigned at Biden's request, said the rules were intended to "modernize the legal regime for debt collection."

But if left unchecked, this expanded access to consumers could very well contribute to new ways to harass struggling consumers.

At the end of the third quarter this year, 77.6 million consumers had at least one debt in collections with \$188 billion in outstanding balances, according to a report by TransUnion.

The collection industry praised the update, arguing that text and email are now the preferred methods for communication for many people.

"The CFPB's debt collection rule is a small step forward in modernizing communications with consumers," Mark Neeb, chief executive of ACA International, the association of credit and collection professionals, said in a statement.

The rules establish certain contact limitations to protect people's privacy and spare them from harassment, abuse or unfair practices. If you're contacted on your social media account, the message has to be private. The debt collectors can't post something that is viewable by the general public or by your friends or followers.

And no subterfuge is allowed. If a debt collector sends you a private message requesting to add you as a friend or contact, the company must make it clear they are attempting to collect a debt, according to the rule changes. They must also give you a way to opt out of receiving further communications from them on that social media platform.

I've followed this issue for years, and while many companies operate within the law, illegal operations can do a lot of damage to innocent consumers. Debt collection isn't wicked. But it can lead to embarrassing, unethical and illegal tactics.

Debt collectors have a limited number of years in which they can sue someone to collect. After the time runs out, unpaid debts are considered "time-barred." But unscrupulous companies try to revive this "zombie debt," as it's called.

Allowing companies to track down people on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram is risky given current illegal practices. Under the changes, telephone calls are limited to seven per week per debt.

Many consumers aren't aware that their debt is no longer collectible. The statute of limitations varies from state to state. Debtors also don't know that many states allow the time-barred clock to reset if they make a small payment on the debt.

Allowing companies to track down people on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram is risky given current illegal practices. Under the changes, telephone calls are limited to seven per week per debt.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission led an initiative with other federal and state law enforcement agencies against phantom debt collection, which is a practice of coercing consumers to pay debts that don't exist or that they don't really owe. The FTC alleges that one company collected more than \$12 million from consumers through illegal debt collection practices. In most cases, the debts never existed or had been previously paid off.

This summer, an Atlanta-based debt collection company, subsequently shut down by the FTC, threatened consumers with arrest and imprisonment to collect nonexistent debts. The collectors posed as law enforcement officers, attorneys, mediators or process servers, the agency said in its complaint against the company.

Debt buyers, who pay pennies on the dollar for defaulted debt, often have scant information other than the person's name, last known address, Social Security number and debt amount. The records may contain little or no documentation at all – no bills or printouts showing purchases, or previous payments. This leads to mistakes and inflation of what folks owe, including exorbitant collection fees.

The CFPB, now under new leadership, needs to watch debt collection companies like a hawk looking for its prey.

"Too many people are hounded to pay debts they don't even owe," CFPB director Rohit Chopra said. "Abuse and harassment by debt collectors are strictly prohibited under federal law, regardless of whether consumers are being contacted in person, over the phone, or on social media. The new debt collection rules will be useless unless they're enforced."

Chopra said the agency will be checking to see if the rules are working or need to be strengthened further.

In the meantime, be forewarned: The person asking to "friend" you on Facebook may be no friend at all.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. Her email address is michelle.singletary@washpost.com. Follow her on Twitter (@SingletaryM) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MichelleSingletary). Comments and questions are welcome, but due to the volume of mail, personal responses may not be possible. Please also note comments or questions may be used in a future column, with the writer's name, unless a specific request to do otherwise is indicated.

PULSE

From page A1

schedule at www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA for viewing updates. The series wraps up for the semester on Dec. 6 with a presentation by Manchester University archivist Jeanine Wine.

Wabash County YMCA holds third annual Holiday Benefit Silent Auction

The Wabash County YMCA has announced the third annual Holiday Benefit Silent Auction benefiting the YMCA financial assistance program. The entire auction will be held online through 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7. Registration may take place any time during the event and may be found by visiting www.bit.ly/WCYHB-SA21. For more information, visit wabashcountymca.org or call 260-563-9622. To donate, visit www.wabashcountymca.org/donate or email jdriskill@wabashcountymca.org.

Salamonie Forest Preschool underway

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool through May 2022 for one Tuesday a month or two Tuesdays a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area. Classes for the once-a-month option will be held Tuesdays including Dec. 7, 2021; Jan. 4, 2022; Feb. 1, 2022; March 1, 2022; April 12, 2022; and May 3, 2022. Classes for the second meeting time each month will also be held Tuesdays including Dec. 21, 2021; Jan. 18, 2022; Feb. 15, 2022; March 15, 2022; April 26, 2022; and May 17, 2022. Advance registration is required. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Manchester Civic Band plans Timbercrest live performance

A Manchester Civic Band performance at Timbercrest Retirement Community performances has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday, Dec. 8 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Salamonie ‘Tweens Among the Trees’ Forest School underway

Children ages 6 to 13 are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool from November 2021 through April 2022 at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The class will be offered one Wednesday a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, Andrews. Classes will be held on Wednesdays: Dec. 8, 2021; Jan. 5, 2022; Feb. 2, 2022; March 2, 2020; and April 20, 2022. Advance registration is required. Limited space is available. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

American Red Cross schedules local blood donation opportunities

The American Red Cross has scheduled several local blood donation opportunities including from 1 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8 at Richvalley Community Center, 56 Mill St.; and from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St. Also, a special blood drive has been planned in honor of Kole Adamiec, 6, a North Manchester boy who has been fighting cancer. This dedicated blood drive will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at Manchester Elementary School, 301 S. River Road, North Manchester. To schedule an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767).

Hoosier Shakespeare Festival presents Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol’

Hoosier Shakespeare Festival presents “A Christmas Carol,” the classic story by Charles Dickens on Thursday, Dec. 9 through Sunday, Dec. 12, in the Fellowship Hall in Christ United Methodist Church, 477 N. Wabash St. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$18. Discounts are available for seniors, military and groups of 10 or more. Email info@hoosiershakes.com for a discount code. Tickets may be purchased by visiting <https://8111-briarwood-ln.ticketleap.com> or at the door at 100 S. Washington St. Doors open 30 minutes before the performance. “A Christmas Carol” has a run time of 90 minutes including one 15-minute intermission. For more information, visit hoosiershakes.com.

WACT’s schedules ‘dinnertainment’ auditions

The Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) will put on another “dinnertainment” production around the Valentine’s Day holiday. Under the direction of WACT veteran Angelina Funk, WACT will share “I Hate Shakespeare!” from Feb. 11 to 13, 2022 at the Charley Creek Inn, 111 W. Market St. This will include not only a show but also a chef-prepared meal. Rehearsals would start Monday through Thursday, with Fridays being possible on Jan. 17, 2022. Auditions will be at the WACTory from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10; from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11; and callbacks will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. For more information, email agjung78@gmail.com. Tickets for this show will be on sale in January.

MU Music Department offers holiday concert

A holiday concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 in Cordier Auditorium on MU’s North Manchester campus. The concert will feature the Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo and Chamber Singers. The jazz groups are under the direction of Scott Humphries, director of bands and music education. The groups will perform standard jazz repertoire, holiday songs and traditional carols. There is no cost for admission. The concert will also be live-streamed on Manchester University’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ManchesterUniv. Masks are required indoors.

Woman’s Clubhouse to host December luncheon

Wabash Musicales will present its annual program of music at the Woman’s Clubhouse for the Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 770 W. Hill St., hosted by the Clubhouse Board. Make your reservations by Friday, Dec. 10 by calling Mary Delauter at 260-563-6613 or Jody LaSalle at 619-990-7088.

Manchester Symphony Orchestra announces 83rd season

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra under Conductor Debra Lynn heads into its 83rd season with these concerts in the works: Holiday Concert on Dec. 12, 2021, in Cordier features the Caroly Symphony by Victor Healy-Hutchinson, Sleigh Ride

by Frederick Delius, March Militaire by Franz Schubert and The Skater’s Waltz by Émile Waldteufel. Trailblazers is March 13, 2022, at the Honeywell Center in Wabash, Indiana. It celebrates African-American composer Florence Price and her Symphony No. 1 in E minor. The concert will also feature high school and college winners of the orchestra’s concerto competition. Spaces on May 15, 2022, in Cordier is the final concert of the season, showcasing the world premiere of Lynn’s five-movement concerto titled Spaces, written specifically for guest artist Derek Reeves. He is the principal violist of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. All concerts are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Masks and social distancing are required.

Retirement open house for MSD bus driver Judy Decker has been planned

In celebration of retiring MSD bus driver Judy Decker’s 47 years of service, a retirement open house will be held for her from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 in the Southwood Jr/Sr High School cafeteria, 564 Indiana 124. The public is invited to attend especially those who had Judy as a driver during their school years.

WCPL’s Holiday Open House returns Dec. 15

This year’s WCPL Holiday Open House, themed “Comfort & Joy,” will take place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15. The library will offer holiday treats, games, prizes, crafts, activities and more. At 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., there will be special storytimes, featuring a puppet play, stories, songs and rhymes based on Jan Brett’s “The Mitten.” There will also be a collection box for scarves, hats and gloves to donate to those in need of warmth this season. Warm winter wear will be donated to the Helping Hands Mission Store. Attendees do not need a library card to attend the Holiday Open House. The event is free, though donations of new or gently used hats, scarves and gloves are encouraged. For more information, call 260-563-2972 or visit www.wabash.lib.in.us.

Operation Reach Out returns

For the second year in a row, “Operation Reach Out,” a “care shower concept created to encourage residents in Wabash County nursing homes and rehab facilities” will be collecting holiday cards for these residents who may be suffering from loneliness. The group will pick up the collection boxes at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 17. Collection boxes are located at Wabash Hardware & Rental, 1351 Cass St.; Nordmann’s Nook, 1106 Indiana 114, North Manchester; Joy Christian Book Store, 1317 Cass St.; and 95.9 KISS FM, 1864 S. Wabash St.; Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church, 129 Southwood Drive; Wabash First United Methodist Church, 110 Cass St.; Wabash Friends Church, 3563 S. Indiana 13; and New Journey Church, 1721 N. Vernon St. To send your cards directly, they may be addressed to “Operation Reach Out” and sent to Miller’s Merry Manor East (which has 60 residents), 1900 Alber St., Wabash IN 46992; Miller’s Merry Manor West (which has 24 residents), 1720 Alber St., Wabash IN 46992; Bickford Cottage (which has 23 residents), 3037 Niccum Road, Wabash, IN 46992; Wellbrooke of Wabash (which has 73 residents, 20 John Kissinger Drive, Wabash IN 46992; Peabody Retirement Community (which has 85 residents in assisted living, 150 residents in the Health Center, 45 residents in Independent Living), 400 W. 7th St., North Manchester, IN 46962; Autumn Ridge Rehabilitations Centre (which has 51 residents); 600 Washington St., Wabash IN 46992; Vernon Manor (which has 60 residents), 1955 Vernon St., Wabash IN 46992; Rolling Meadows Lafontaine (which has 81 residents), 604 Rennaaker St., Lafontaine, IN 46940; and Timbercrest Senior Living Community (which has 100 manor residents, 16 Crestwood residents and 50 health care residents), 2201 East St.,

North Manchester, IN 46962. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/820111048789504>.

Grow Wabash County gift checks spark shopping local

Grow Wabash County gift checks (formerly known as Chamber Gift Checks before 2017) are gift certificates that can be redeemed at any business or organization that is a current Grow Wabash County investor. Since gift checks can only be spent at Grow Wabash County investors, businesses that are not currently members that would like to participate in this year’s program may call 260-563-5258 or visit www.growwabashcounty.com/invest. For a full list of Grow Wabash County investors, visit www.growwabashcounty.com/investors. Grow Wabash County also offers a list of retail stores, restaurants and other GWC investors where gift checks are most commonly used. That list can be found at www.growwabashcounty.com/giftchecklist. Businesses that are not currently Grow Wabash County investors should not be accepting gift checks from customers. Gift checks may be purchased by emailing marketing@growwabashcounty.com or calling 260-563-5258. Gift checks must be paid upfront with cash or check, credit or debit card payments are not accepted for gift check orders. The last day to order gift checks will be Monday, Dec. 20 and gift check orders may be picked up no later than Wednesday, Dec. 22. For more information, visit www.growwabashcounty.com/giftchecks.

Babe of Wabash County selling charity window candle lighting spots

Babe of Wabash County would like to remember or honor your loved ones by placing candles in their windows. The candles will light up the house throughout the Christmas season. The cost

will be \$25 per candle. In addition to placing a candle in their window, they will also honor your loved one on our Facebook page and in their newsletter. The proceeds for the fundraiser will go towards their coupon program and boutique needs. For more information, call 260-274-0158, email babeofwabashinc@gmail.com or visit www.babeofwabashcounty.org.

Living Gift Market fundraiser for Heifer International continues through Dec. 31

The 34th Living Gift Market for Heifer International was held Saturday, Nov. 13 in North Manchester, but donations will be accepted until Dec. 31. For more information, call 260-982-6343.

‘Bite in the 85’ dining program to launch

Visit Wabash County has announced the launch of a new program coming to Wabash County called “Bite in the 85,” which will take place from Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, through Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. For three weeks, the participating restaurants will have the opportunity to offer their specials and deals to the public, including 50 East Garden Center and Café, 950 Speakeasy Bistro, Eugene’s Restaurant, Harry’s Old Kettle Pub & Grill, Market Street Grill, Modoc’s Market, Pizza King and Twenty. The public will have the opportunity to win gift cards to the participating restaurants and five winners will receive a \$100 gift card. Entries will be collected by filling out a short online form that will be accessible by a QR code on all “Bite in the 85” menus at the participating restaurants. For more information, visit VisitWabashCounty.com/bite-in-the-85.

Manchester exhibit honors indigenous identity

Link Gallery at Manchester University offers art pieces

by North Manchester resident Briana “Bri” Floor in “Indigi-Flections: Reflections on an Indigenous Identity.” The exhibit continues through Feb. 4, 2022. Link Gallery is in Winger Hall on East Street in North Manchester. The public is welcome, and masks are required inside MU buildings.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

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Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The party also featured an “ugly sweater” contest.



The performance featured some piano accompaniment along with a cappella pieces.



A pair of students performs a duet of "Baby, It's Cold Outside."



A four-piece male “barbershop quartet” lineup takes the stage to perform an a cappella version of “Joy to the World.”



Snacks and refreshments were provided at the party.

PARTY

From page A1

of a piece called “We Three Kings.”

"I've actually met this arranger in one of my choral workshops that I've attended over the years. I can't believe I've been teaching for 32 years now. It doesn't seem possible. But, I find the most interesting thing about

this arrangement, when we were looking for pieces, we found this one online and it's actually in 5/4," said Nevil. "So, those of you on the musical side you'll find it just that much more interesting."

A four-piece male "barbershop quartet" lineup then took the stage to perform an a cappella version of "Joy to the World."

Up next was a duet performance of "Baby, It's Cold

Outside." Of course, since these were teenagers, some of the words were modified a bit. Instead of, "But maybe just a half a drink more," it was, "But maybe just a soda pop more." And instead of, "Say, what's in this drink?" it was, "Say, was that a wink?"

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.



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NMCH presents second annual ‘Market @ the Museum’ event

The North Manchester Center for History (NMCH) has begun their second annual “Market @ the Museum” event, taking place through Saturday, Dec. 11 at 122 E. Main St., North Manchester, according to director Laura Rager.

“The market features local artists with a variety of items from food, candles, baskets, jewelry, artwork and loads of holiday flair,” said Rager. “What a great opportunity to visit the museum, check out

the newest exhibits and get a little shopping done. While you’re visiting downtown North Manchester why not make a day of it and grab lunch or a cup of coffee downtown and check out the great shops in town?”

The “Market @ the Museum” is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, visit www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org.

MU Giving Tuesday raises more than \$94K

Manchester University asked alumni, friends, colleagues and neighbors to #JointheMUVement and help with several crowdfunding projects on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30.

A total of 217 donors gave \$94,123.02, according to Manchester University Office

of Strategic Communications assistant director of media relations Anne Gregory.

The projects were The Manchester Fund; the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Fund; the Food Pantry at its North Manchester campus; and the Food Pantry at the Fort Wayne campus.

HOMES

From page A1

city’s participation in the program. At 10:20 a.m., Housing Resource Hub co-founder and chief operating officer Ryan Chasey is scheduled to provide an introduction and launch the local program. At 10:30 a.m., a closing and question and answer session is scheduled.

Smyth said Long had recently authorized a new down payment initiative “to make the dream of homeownership a reality for those who want to make Wabash their home.”

Due to a resolution passed during an August Wabash City Council meeting, local home buyers will have the new financing tool at their disposal. The resolution enters the city into a cooperative agreement with the Indianapolis Housing Agency (IHA) to participate in the Hoosier Homes Program.

The IHA sponsors and administers the Indiana Housing Initiative, also known as the Hoosier Homes Program, to “provide a homeownership program with competitive HUD, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac eligible mortgage loans and down payment and closing cost assistance towards the purchase of existing and newly constructed homes.”

Long said this financing tool is used in around three dozen states throughout the country. The IHA is the state authority for this funding program.

Long said the program would not cost the city any-

thing and that a per loan fee will be paid to the city in the amount of .0025 percent of the first mortgage amount of every loan originated through this program. The IHA will receive a fee of \$150 for every loan purchased by the servicer.

Long said those eligible would have to make less than 140 percent of the area median income, which would equal out to \$89,180.

City Attorney Doug Lehman said the IHA was “allowing us to piggyback on their program.”

Lehman said the IHA has made this offer available to other counties, including Allen County.

Long said if they were to do this independently they would have to establish a “Wabash Housing Agency.”

Long said the fees the city collects would be deposited into an account that would be used for future housing projects.

District 3 councilmember Terry Brewer said he was concerned about the program and wanted to make sure there was a way for the city to break the agreement in the future if they so chose. In response, Lehman said he didn’t think there was anything that would prevent them from getting out at any particular point in time.

The resolution then passed, with Brewer and at large council member Bryan Dillon voting against it.

For more information, visit www.cityofwabash.com.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

‘Things are different now’: Shock then resolve after the attack on Pearl Harbor

By **RON GROSSMAN**
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

CHICAGO — Charles Collins thought he’d do a little Christmas shopping on Dec. 7, 1941. It was a Sunday, and he’d already filed the next installment of “A Line ‘O’ Type Or Two,” a venerable Chicago Tribune column peppered with readers’ verses and quips.

No sooner did he step outside than he heard a newspaper hawk yell: “They’re historic, and will be worth money years from now.” Headlines announced that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor.

The previous Friday’s column, the stunned Collins remembered, had included a sympathy note for Japan’s war dead – referring to casualties of Japan’s war in China. But the reader’s jingle had been re-contextualized by the 2,390 Americans killed by Japanese aircraft that brought the United States into World War II.

Tuesday is the 80th anniversary of the day that those who were alive when it happened could never forget.

The news about the attack on Pearl Harbor spread throughout Chicago jerkily, like runaway frames of movie film.

The attack occurred at 7:55 a.m. Hawaiian time. It was shortly before noon at Comiskey Park, where fans were desperately looking for tickets to a sold-out game there between the Bears and the Cardinals, Chicago’s other football team.

At 1:50 p.m., WGN broke



Fox Photos / Hulton Archive / Getty Images / TNS

The USS California on fire in Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

into its coverage of the game to announce Japan’s strike on the U.S. Navy’s Pacific Fleet. But portable radios were bulky and mobile phones didn’t exist, so those in the ballpark weren’t aware of what was going on.

Listeners at home heard the news as radio stations broadcast an account phoned in by a reporter on the scene:

“Hello, NBC. Hello, NBC. This is KTU in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am speaking from the roof of the Advertiser Publishing Company Building. We have witnessed this morning the distant view of a brief full battle of Pearl Harbor and the severe bombing of Pearl Harbor by enemy planes, undoubtedly Japanese. The city of Honolulu has also been attacked and considerable damage done. ... It is no joke. It is a real war.”

Reporters encountered various responses to those developments. A few Chicago

streets were littered with the shattered windows of Japanese restaurants.

A Chicago Tribune reporter wrote this account:

“‘We’ll whip ‘em in two weeks,’ prophesied a Notre Dame junior over a glass of beer at Clark and Randolph. ‘Don’t be silly,’ said the man on the next stool. ‘They’ve been fighting: we haven’t. We’ll whip ‘em, but it’ll take a few months to do it.’”

“‘Finally it’s here,’ one man was heard to say.”

“Things are different now,” Pvt. John Landers, an Army deserter, had said to a Tribune reporter when he walked into the Warren Street police station after Pearl Harbor was attacked. “Now I want to go back and do my part.”

“The period of democratic debate on entering the war is over,” the America First Committee wrote. “The time for military action is here.”

Col. Robert McCormick,

the Tribune’s publisher, abandoned the America First’s position. Drawing on his service in the World War I, he counseled Americans on what to expect in the new war:

“Bear this in mind: Battle is terrible; the enemy is trying to kill you with every horrible weapon he has,” McCormick said in his weekly talk over WGN radio. “To stand up to the strain you must be as brave as he; you must be as well armed as he; and you must feel that you are a better fighting man than he.”

Casualty reports and an occasional bit of good news underscored McCormick’s message that it would be a long, bitterly fought war, with defeats preceding victories.

Midwest families and communities learned news of a more personal nature over the next few days.

Cpt. Thomas L. Kirkpatrick, a Navy chaplain killed at Pearl Harbor, had been the assistant pastor of the Oak Park Presbyterian Church.

Francis Campbell Jr.’s parents in Chicago received a two-word cablegram from their son, a Marine stationed on Midway Island: “OK, Love.” The Japanese had attacked it and Pearl Harbor simultaneously.

In Bristol, Indiana, neighbors weren’t surprised when the Army praised Lt. Louis Sanders for “spectacular feats of heroism” during dogfights over Pearl Harbor. Back home, he was known for daredevil stunt-flying.

“Oh boy am I proud!” his father told the Tribune. “Guess I don’t have to worry any more.”

PURSUIT

From page A1

of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He also had two active arrest warrants out of Tippecanoe County for escape or failure to return to lawful detention and failure to appear for being a habitual traffic violator.

Lavache was assisted with this case by the Wabash Police Department, the Wabash County Sheriff’s Department, and the Huntington County Sheriff’s Department.

According to court records, Davis had a hearing on Wednesday in Huntington Superior Court on charges of operating a vehicle after being a habitual traffic offender, identity deception, speeding and being a habitual offender. Mark Wiley, who was appointed as Davis’ public defender in August, appeared in Davis’ place, as he was incarcerated at the Tippecanoe

County Jail at the time of the hearing. At that time, the pre-trial conference, in that case, was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022.

Also according to court records, Davis faces another misdemeanor charge in Tippecanoe Superior Court of resisting law enforcement.

A jury trial, in that case, has been scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, before Judge Daniel J. Moore. On that same date, Davis also faces a jury trial on a felony charge of confinement and a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

“All criminal defendants are

to be presumed innocent until, and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law,” said Slocum.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Stingy Eastbrook defense shuts down Southwood

Knights play their fifth-straight road game Saturday at TRC-rival Rochester

By **SCOTT HUNT**
Chronicle-Tribune Sports Editor

MARION — Two important traits of good basketball teams are often revealed after a loss.

One is how a team responds to adversity and another is learning and growing from it.

The Eastbrook girls basketball team carried lofty expectations into the 2021-22 season but faced its first big

dose of adversity on Saturday in a 61-31 loss at Class 3A No. 6 Norwell.

The 2A No. 15 Panthers' response to the loss came Wednesday evening with a suffocating defensive performance along with a balanced offensive attack in a 55-24 win over visiting Southwood.

Eastbrook coach Jeff Liddick, who is also an assistant for the Panthers football team, said his first action af-

ter the loss to Norwell came when he got to school Monday morning and reached out to head football coach Jeff Adamson for a bit of wisdom.

"A 30-point loss can make a team go downhill real quick," Liddick said, on Wednesday. "I talked with Jeff for a little bit about some things and came back and talked to the girls that afternoon at practice and said listen, that game showed us where we need to be at to win championships. These are the things we did well in that game and these are the things we didn't do well. So

let's clean up those things we didn't do well on Saturday and just continue to build off of it."

Southwood matched Eastbrook's effort and energy in a competitive first quarter, but the Knights had little answer for the Panthers' depth and athleticism.

Eastbrook started the game with a 9-0 run, but Southwood junior Ella Hauptert scored nine of her game-high 14 points in the first quarter and twice the Knight pulled back within three before the Panthers settled with a 20-15 lead after eight minutes.

Southwood made 4-of-11

field goal attempts in the opening quarter, but Eastbrook limited the Knights to 4-of-32 through the final three, including 1-of-15 in the second half. The Panthers also forced 19 turnovers, with 13 coming on steals.

"I told them at halftime if we could have made a shot, we're talking it's an under 10-point game against a really good team," shared Southwood coach Kenneth Norman of his message after Eastbrook extended its lead 37-20 at intermission. "On our schedule, there's probably not a better team than

Eastbrook.

"Our team works hard and I never ever fault their effort. We just have to be able to run offense under pressure and it's hard to duplicate their pressure in our practice," he added. "They are as good of a team that's around locally. If you want to say four counties, I don't know of a team that can beat them. There's none on our schedule that's as good as them. I liked our effort. I thought we actually ran pretty good offense in the first half, we just didn't make shots."

See **EASTBROOK**, page B2

MU men's basketball drops HCAC opener at Defiance

Wednesday's contest was a tight one as there were 18 lead changes and 12 ties

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University Spartans were upended in men's basketball action at Defiance College on Wednesday evening. The Yellow Jackets topped the Spartans in their Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) opener by a final score of 80-74.

Wednesday's contest was a tight one as there were 18 lead changes and 12 ties. The Black and Gold held a narrow 39-38 lead at halftime before the Yellow Jackets outscored MU 42-35 in the second period.

A three-pointer by sophomore Hunter Perlich, from Fort Wayne and Churubusco High School, tied the game at 65 with 6:53 remaining in Wednesday's game. The host Yellow Jackets would regain the lead on their next possession and ended the game on a 15-9 run to seal the win.

Defiance shot 50 percent (33-66) from the field on Wednesday. DC shot 6-20 (30 percent) from beyond the three-point arc. Manchester shot 44.6 percent (29-65) from the floor against the Yellow Jackets. The Black and Gold finished 9-27 (33 percent) from a three-point distance.

First-year point guard Quentez Columbus, from

South Bend and Adams High School, led Manchester with 18 points, five assists and four rebounds. Columbus shot 7-16 against Defiance. Bryant Smith, from West Lafayette and Harrison High School, added 17 points. Smith finished 5-11 from downtown. Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley and Prairie Heights High School, chipped in 13 points and six rebounds, while Hunter Perlich added 12 points off the bench. Fifth-year senior CJ Hampton, from Hammond, and Griffith High School, lined the stat sheet with eight rebounds, seven points and six assists.

Defiance was led by Marrell Jordan's 27 points and Dejsani Beamon's 25 points. No other Yellow Jacket scored more than eight points in Wednesday's matchup.

Manchester (1-6, 0-1 HCAC) will travel to Earlham College on Saturday, Dec. 4. Game time against the Quakers is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Defiance (2-4, 1-0 HCAC) will look for its second consecutive win this weekend when it travels to Franklin College on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.



Senior Miranda Bieghler, from Plainfield and South Putnam High School, added 15 points, six rebounds, five steals and five assists in 40 minutes of action.

Manchester women's basketball opens HCAC play with 68-58 triumph over Defiance

Spartans will travel to Earlham College on Saturday, Dec. 4

By **DILLON BENDER**

The hot start to the season for the Manchester University women's basketball team continued on Wednesday night. The Spartans knocked off the Defiance College Yellow Jackets by a final score of 68-58 inside of Stauffer-Wolfe Arena to begin Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) play.

The Spartans won their fourth straight game and are off to their best start since the 2006-07 season. The team began 6-0 that season.

A short-handed Spartans squad overcame some early adversity against the Yellow Jackets en route to the come-

from-behind win. Defiance outscored the Black and Gold 22-12 in the opening period after shooting a blistering 64.3 percent (9-14) from the field. The Yellow Jackets shot 3-5 from three over the game's first 10 minutes, while out-rebounding Manchester 12-4.

The Spartans found their groove on both ends of the floor following the first period. Manchester outscored Defiance 17-9 in the second quarter. The Spartans defense limited Defiance to just 25 percent (3-12) shooting in the second frame. Manchester outscored the visiting Yellow Jackets by 17-13 and 22-14 tallies in the 3rd and 4th quarters en route to the 10-point victory. The Black and Gold shot 7-15 (46.7 percent) and 6-12 (50 percent) in the two periods following the intermis-

sion.

For the game, Manchester finished 23-54 (42.6 percent) from the field. The Spartans connected on five three-pointers while also connecting on 17 of 22 foul shot attempts (77.3 percent).

The Spartans converted 18 Defiance turnovers into 18 points in the win.

Every Spartan that played scored at least one point in the HCAC opener. Senior forward Macy Miller, from Hometown and Carroll High School, led Manchester with 17 points, five rebounds and four assists. Fellow senior Miranda Bieghler, from Plainfield and South Putnam High School, added 15 points, six rebounds, five steals and five assists in 40 minutes of action. Senior Bridget Nash, from Carmel and Bishop Chatard High School, added

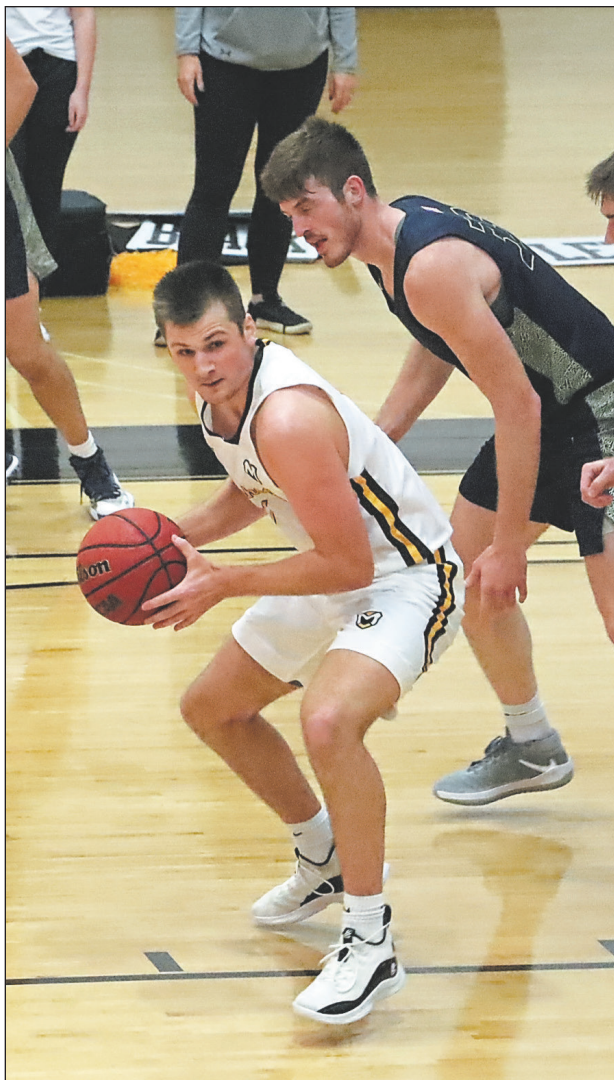
13 points and 5 assists in the win.

Defiance ended Wednesday's contest shooting 42.3 percent (22-52). DC made six three-pointers. McKenzie Cooper led three Yellow Jackets in double figures with 14 points on the strength of 6-7 shooting. Taylor Steinbrunner scored 13 points while Lexie Sparks scored 10.

Manchester (4-1, 1-0 HCAC) will look to extend its win streak this weekend when it travels to Earlham College for an HCAC matchup with the Quakers on Saturday, Dec. 4. Game time in Richmond is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Defiance (4-2, 1-1 HCAC) will travel to Franklin College on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.



A three-pointer by sophomore Hunter Perlich, from Fort Wayne and Churubusco High School, tied the game at 65 with 6:53 remaining in Wednesday's game.

Spartans fall to Pioneers in HCAC Tournament

MU concludes its season with an 11-16 overall record

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University volleyball team fell at Transylvania University in straight sets in the Opening Round of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Tournament.

The Pioneers, the no. 3 seed in this year's tournament, topped the no. 6 seeded Spartans by set scores of 25-20, 25-20, and 25-12.

Manchester was led by junior Halle Planck, from Gas City and Mississinewa High School, who finished the match with a team-high 12 kills on the strength of a .286 swinging percentage. Planck added 2 block assists. Sophomore Joy Maze, from Greenwood and Greenwood Community High School, added 7 kills. Playing in her final match for Manchester, senior Samantha Campbell, from Brownsburg, chipped in 5 kills.

Manchester came into the HCAC Tournament as the



Manchester was led by junior Halle Planck, from Gas City and Mississinewa High School, who finished the match with a team-high 12 kills on the strength of a .286 swinging percentage.

conference leader in total blocks on the season; the Spartans had another strong performance at the net, finishing the match with 15 total blocks. Both Maze and Erika Kramer, from Greensburg and North Decatur High School, had 4 block assists.

Sophomore setter Jordan Holland, from Osceola and Mishawaka High School, paced Manchester with 26 assists.

Transylvania's high-powered offense proved difficult to slow as the Pioneers hit .311 on Wednesday night – including .364 in the third set.

Leading the way for Transylvania was HCAC Newcomer of the Year, Cate Scheper, who finished Wednesday's game with 17 kills after swinging a blistering .438.

The Pioneers (21-12) will

advance to the HCAC Semifinals on Saturday afternoon where they will take on no. 2 seed Mount St. Joseph University. The HCAC Semifinals and Championship will be held at Earlham College in Richmond.

Manchester concludes its season with an overall record of 11-16.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Five Spartan earn recognition from HCAC volleyball honors

By DILLON BENDER

Manchester University volleyball was well represented this year as the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) released its all-conference awards on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Headlining the All-HCAC awards with a First Team selection was senior middle hitter Samantha Campbell, from Brownsburg. Campbell led Manchester with 223 kills this fall while adding 15 solo blocks and 27 block assists. Campbell also hit .207 while helping lead the Spartans to their first HCAC Tournament appearance since 2016.

A trio of Spartans also picked up Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors from the league office on Tuesday. Junior right-side hitter Halle Planck, from Gas City and Mississinewa High School, earned Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors for the second straight year after finishing regular season play with totals of 216 kills, 130 digs, 21 solo blocks and 44 block assists. Planck also earned First Team and All-HCAC Freshman Team honors back in 2019.

Junior libero Helaina Walters, from Marion and Eastbrook High School, also earned Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors this season. Walters racked up a team-best 346 digs while also leading the Black and Gold with 36 aces.

Newcomer Erika Kramer, from Greensburg and North Decatur High School, was also recognized with Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors. The sophomore middle hitter chipped in 86 hills, 19 solo blocks and 28 block assists on the season.

Rounding out the All-HCAC awards on Tuesday with an HCAC All-Freshman Team selection was middle hitter Carley Camp, from Logansport. Camp appeared in 25 matches during her first season in a Spartan



Senior middle hitter Samantha Campbell, from Brownsburg, led Manchester with 223 kills this fall while adding 15 solo blocks and 27 block assists.



Junior libero Helaina Walters, from Marion and Eastbrook High School, also earned Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors this season.



Junior right-side hitter Halle Planck, from Gas City and Mississinewa High School, earned Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors for the second straight year after finishing regular season play with totals of 216 kills, 130 digs, 21 solo blocks and 44 block assists.



Newcomer Erika Kramer, from Greensburg and North Decatur High School, was also recognized with Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors.

uniform. Camp's 53 block assists led Manchester and ranked fifth in the HCAC. She also added 18 solo blocks and 95 kills.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Middle hitter Carley Camp, from Logansport, appeared in 25 matches during her first season in a Spartan uniform.

Spartan women's soccer duo earns recognition from HCAC

By DILLON BENDER

A pair of Manchester University women's soccer players were honored by the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Both Bridget Nash, from Carmel and Bishop Chatard High School, and Adelle Stanko, from Okemos, Michigan, and Okemos High School, picked up Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors from the league this season.

Nash, a midfielder, started all 15 games this fall for the Black and Gold. She started all 52 games she appeared in during her Spartan career, posting career totals of 3 goals, 3 assists and 9 points.

Stanko, a defender, earned her third consecutive Honorable Mention All-HCAC nod on Tuesday morning. Stan-



Bridget Nash, a midfielder, started all 15 games this fall for the Black and Gold.



Adelle Stanko, a defender, earned her third consecutive Honorable Mention All-HCAC nod on Tuesday morning.

ko started all 15 games this fall for the Black and Gold. Additionally, she added 15 shots and placed 7 shots on

goal this season.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

HCAC announces Sportsmanship Team

By DILLON BENDER

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) announced the Fall 2021 Christopher M. Ragsdale Sportsmanship Team on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

The HCAC All-Sportsmanship Award is named in honor of former HCAC Commissioner, Christopher M. Ragsdale who served as the Commissioner from 2009 to 2018. In its inaugural season, the All-Sportsmanship team was recognized following each sports season, and the league has returned to this practice of honoring athletes outside of the conference champi-

onship season to elevate the focus placed on these deserving individuals.

The sportsmanship award was developed as part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative in 2009. Members of the All-HCAC Sportsmanship team are selected by the coaches and their teammates as individuals who demonstrate the ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field/court of competition. Nominees must have demonstrated consistently the values of respect, and integrity in his or her daily participation in intercollegiate athletics.

The following Manchester University student-athletes

were named to this fall's Christopher M. Ragsdale Sportsmanship Team:

- Dylan Leininger, junior, men's cross country.
- Hannah Brubaker, junior, women's cross country.
- Joe Garling, senior, football.
- Sara Knepper, senior, women's golf.
- Elliott Mozingo, junior, men's soccer.
- Becca Colbert, senior, women's soccer.
- Natalie Kotlin, sophomore, women's tennis.
- Dakota Goetz, junior, volleyball.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

EASTBROOK

From page B1

Southwood managed only two field goals in the second quarter, a three by Hauptert and a two from junior Makenna Younce, and Hauptert scored the only field goal in the four-point second half with just under six minutes to play in the game.

"I told them before the game that (Southwood is) going to come out like pit bulls to start and we're going to have to be ready for that," Liddick said. "We weren't ready for that on Saturday because Norwell did the same thing. We had a 9-0 run to start the quarter and then we relaxed. We've got to fix some of those things. Those are maturity things that are going to come as the season progresses and as girls get more time under their belts.

"In the second half I challenged them to hold (Southwood) to 10 points or less and we held them to four," he added. "Part of it was the mentality, another part was we changed a couple things scheme-wise, especially with (Hauptert) just to make things tougher for her. She's a player. She puts a lot of time in the gym. To hold her to two points in the second half after giving up 12 in the first is a testament not only to whoever was guarding her but to the other four on the floor doing their job and making it tough as well."

Younce finished with five points for the Knights, junior Aleia Sweet had three while junior Alaina Winer and freshman Quinn Claussen score one point apiece. Winer collected six rebounds, senior Bailey Wyatt had five boards, Hauptert and Claussen each pulled down four, Sweet and Younce had three rebounds each.

Seniors Kristin Goff and Lily McLaughlin along with sophomore Sophia Morrison scored nine points each to lead Eastbrook. Sophomore Kortney Goff chipped in eight points, junior Sehda McKim and sophomore Olivia Howell scored six



Photo by Scott Hunt / Chronicle-Tribune

Southwood's Ella Hauptert drives past Eastbrook's Olivia Howell in the second half to the Knights' 55-24 loss to the Panthers Wednesday evening at Eastbrook. Hauptert scored a game-high 14 points to lead Southwood.

apiece with senior Johwen McKim and freshman Mia Bustos scoring four each.

Kristin Goff and Sehda McKim each gathered six rebounds, McLaughlin and sophomore Estah McKim had four rebounds apiece while Johwen McKim dished out five assists, made four steals and had three rebounds. Howell also had four steals for the Panthers.

"Coming into the season we thought we could be pretty deep. We didn't know how deep or who was going to be ready and who wasn't," Liddick said. "I think we saw tonight that we can go eight or nine deep confidently. There's going to be big games coming up, one on Friday, where we're going to have to be eight or nine deep.

"Plus, as hard as ere going on both ends of the court, it's good to get Liv out, good to get Jo out, good to get Soph out. We weren't able to do that last year," he continued. "Now we can afford to do that with the girls we have. ... We bounced back. I think by the effort we saw on the court that the girls were ready to fix some of those things and it showed in the

result."

Norman believes the Knights will learn and grow from facing a tough match-up in Eastbrook. He also knows eventually his team will start to make more shots in games.

"Last year we were a decent three-point shooting team and we are not this year," Norman said. "I know it's coming. Every Monday on the coaches (radio) show I say there is going to be a team that will pay for this. I don't know where or when it happens, but there is going to be a night where we hit like 12 (3-pointers) and shoot 45 percent and they're going to be like that isn't how it looked on film. Well, that's how it looks at our practices, we just haven't got there yet."

Eastbrook (5-1) opened up Central Indiana Conference play hosting Mississinewa on Friday.

Southwood (3-4, 0-1 in Three Rivers Conference) plays its fifth-straight road game at TRC-rival Rochester at 7:45 p.m. Saturday.

Scott Hunt, Chronicle-Tribune sports editor, may be reached by email at shunt@chronicle-tribune.com.

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Omicron has fueled even more COVID-19 misinformation as scientists learn more

By **JUSTINE MCDANIEL**
and **ERIN MCCARTHY**
The Philadelphia Inquirer (TNS)

PHILADELPHIA — In the days since the new omicron variant of the coronavirus was identified, scientists and doctors worldwide have gone into overdrive to research the variant.

At the same time, they’ve also had to scramble to do something else: Explain to the public that it’ll take time until they know how much of a threat omicron could pose — and fight the confusion, misconceptions, and misinformation prompted by this latest turn in the pandemic.

The emergence of the variant, and its sudden takeover of the news cycle, created a new wave of coronavirus misinformation. Some conservatives immediately began circulating conspiracy theories, including hosts and guests on Fox News and Newsmax falsely claiming it was a hoax devised by Democrats.

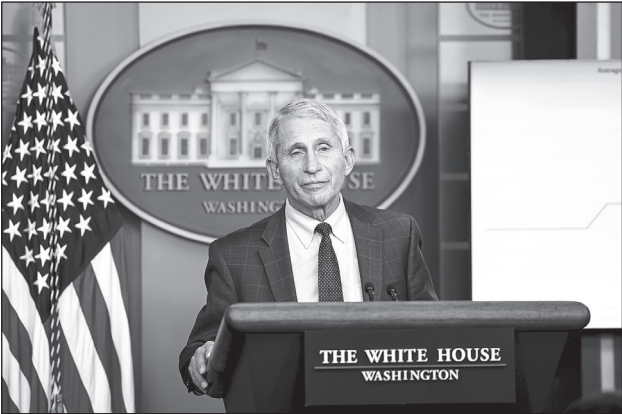
Misinformation is “effective because in these moments of uncertainty, as humans we’re looking for answers,” said Claire Wardle, director of First Draft, a non-profit that helps organizations tackle misinformation, and a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. “And the data takes a few weeks, whereas the conspiracies are there immediately.”

The vaccines have been effective

Omicron’s existence doesn’t mean that the vaccines didn’t work. The vaccines have been proven effective in preventing illness and extremely effective in preventing severe cases, hospitalization, and death.

But as long as the virus is spreading, it can continue mutating. If everyone were vaccinated, the virus wouldn’t be able to easily spread or mutate, and new variants wouldn’t keep emerging. With less than half the global population fully vaccinated, scientists and doctors have said the emergence of another variant had been inevitable.

“The more unvaccinated people, the more likely variants like omicron can take hold in the community,” said Rosemarie Halt, Delaware County’s COVID-19 task force director and chair of its board of health.



Anna Moneymaker / Getty Images / TNS

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the Chief Medical Advisor to the President, delivers an update on the Omicron COVID-19 variant during the daily press briefing at the White House on Dec. 1 in Washington, DC.

That’s one key reason why doctors and scientists have pushed vaccination — and this week, they said it is also the best tool available against omicron until more is known. (The vaccines also continue to protect against delta, which still makes up 99 percent of cases in the country.)

And despite misinformation popping up on Facebook or WhatsApp, some may heed public health officials’ messages — about 30 percent of unvaccinated people said they would consider getting vaccinated because of omicron, a Morning Consult poll found this week.

Though omicron is worrisome to researchers because it has many more mutations than previous variants, it’s not yet known whether it is more dangerous. On Thursday, a World Health Organization official said the vaccines were likely to protect against the variant, though scientists still need to find out how much, if at all, protection is lessened.

In the Philadelphia region and elsewhere, officials have told the public not to panic if they’re vaccinated and stressed the importance of getting boosted.

“It is doubtful that the omicron variant would evade the vaccine — at worst, it may be a bit less effective, but this still remains to be seen,” said Montgomery County medical director Richard Lorraine, noting data remained limited about the strain’s severity and transmissibility.

Exacerbating uncertainty

The constantly evolving nature of the pandemic, the lack of a robust public understanding of science, and

the fear that has gripped the world for 20 months all make people more vulnerable to misinformation, experts said. That’s exacerbated whenever the pandemic’s course changes and plunges everyone back into the unknown.

“When there’s a vacuum, that’s when misinformation flourishes,” said Wardle.

Even if many don’t believe the misinformation they see on social media, in a group text, or on TV, it can cause an increasing sense of uncertainty, said Katherine Ognyanova, a Rutgers University communications professor who researches misinformation and political mistrust.

And repeated exposure to misinformation can particularly affect populations that are already more likely to be hesitant about getting vaccinated, she said. These include people in Black and brown communities, which have historically been mistreated by health-care professionals, and parents, who naturally worry about their children.

“They aren’t sure what to believe,” Ognyanova said. “We still have a lot of people who don’t know if they’re eligible [for boosters] or don’t know if they need it or aren’t sure it’s effective or are worrying about side effects or parents who are worried about their kids.”

That’s why Ognyanova is most concerned by misinformation that downplays the seriousness of the virus and could influence people to avoid the vaccine or not take preventive measures, such as masking.

Wardle, too, said the effects of pandemic misinformation could hinder the public health response if omicron turns out

to be dangerous, potentially making it difficult for officials to get people to return to wearing masks or social distancing.

There were signs Thursday that U.S. officials were prepared for that possibility. Though President Joe Biden said he did not yet believe additional mitigation measures would be needed, he extended the existing mask mandate on planes, trains, and buses, and his press secretary said nothing was off the table as the situation evolves.

“That’s what worries me about the next couple of months,” Wardle said.

Partisan divide

The conspiracies that have cropped up around omicron aren’t new, experts said, and are rooted in the same political motivation that has been exhibited throughout the pandemic.

Misinformation “seems to be heavily spreading based on political affiliation,” with middle-aged Republicans most susceptible, Ognyanova said.

The political divide has real-world effects: In the United States, 59 percent of the population is fully vaccinated, but a significant partisan divide persists. Republicans made up 60 percent of those who are unvaccinated, while Democrats made up 17 percent as of October, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation analysis.

And the gap between Republicans and Democrats in how likely they are to get vaccinated is a bigger gap than that between any other demographics, including race, education, age, and rural-vs.-urban, the researchers found.

That means more Republicans are vulnerable to catching the virus, including any variant. They’re also more vulnerable to false claims that the pandemic is being exaggerated, with unvaccinated Republicans more likely to believe that than vaccinated ones, KFF found.

With omicron, “it’s unfortunate, but probably a predictable kind of thing that we could have expected,” Ognyanova said.

This presents an ongoing challenge for public health leaders as they look to reach people who have still not gotten vaccinated seven months into the broad rollout.

Indiana’s Black churches work to combat mental health crisis in new ways

By **BRANDON DRENON**
The Indianapolis Star

INDIANAPOLIS — On a Sunday morning in Anderson, almost 30 years ago, the Rev. Dwight Holland was on assignment as pastor at his second church when he noticed a young woman crying.

He asked her to come into his office.

“What she ended up sharing with me,” Holland said, “blew my mind.”

Holland said the woman told him that she had been molested by a family member.

Feeling “helpless,” he did what he was trained to do: he listened, he prayed, he offered her some scriptures.

“But at that moment she needed more than that,” Holland said, “and I recognized that.”

However, 30 years ago, the church did not really acknowledge mental health, Holland continued, and the Black community shunned it, perceiving mental illness as either a sign of weakness or a source of shame.

Those were his only known options.

Today, Holland, 63, takes a radically different approach.

He has since received his master’s in psychotherapy and faith from Christian Theological Seminary and is part of a movement to reduce the stigmatization of mental illness within Black churches across Central Indiana.

Holland’s work belongs to a larger national trend among Black churches, which saw a nearly 20 percent increase in the number of churches offering some type of mental health service between 2012 and 2019, according to data from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

“As we’ve progressed from a social, economic and educational point of view,” Holland said, “it seems like the culture gradually shifted.”

In 2020, the rate of Black youth suicide increased faster than any other racial or ethnic group, according to a report by the Congressional Black Caucus, calling it a “crisis.” Suicide attempts by Black adolescents rose 73 percent from 1991 to 2017. Also, injuries from attempted suicides increased 122 percent for Black boys during the same period.

Brad Fulton, sociologist at Indiana University, believes that centuries of systemic racism and everyday discrimination against Black Americans has left them with a “mental health burden.”

A burden that continues to increase, according to Fulton, due to disproportionate job loss, food insecurity and homelessness exacerbated by the pandemic; and, the racial injustices and high-profile police killings of Black men during 2020.

Despite a mental health crisis within the Black community, Black Americans only use mental health services at about one-half the rate of white Americans, according to a study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Fulton attributes this underuse to multiple factors, including medicine’s historical racial bias against Black Americans and lack of access to mental health professionals in their community.

As a result, he believes, “Strengthening relationships between churches and mental health providers can be one way to increase access to needed services.”

Pastor Carlos Perkins from Bethel Cathedral A.M.E. Church, Indianapolis’ oldest majority-Black church, employs a variety of tactics to address mental health.

In October, he held the first of a four-part series on mental health titled You Can Have Jesus and a Therapist. Three mental health professionals, including Holland, were brought in to raise awareness and address concerns.

“We still believe in the power of prayer,” Perkins added, “but we also recognize that it is through prayer and professionals that we help individuals to understand the world.”

Pastor Denell Howard at Hovey Street Church of Christ agrees.

Each March, Hovey Street Church of Christ hosts an entire month of events focused on mental health, including workshops, various presenters and sermons focused on the topic, as well as other events throughout the year.

At Nu Corinthian Church, there is a mental health treatment center on church grounds, where members can receive professional treatment steps away from where they receive the word of God.

These developments are significant, Perkins said, because they oppose Black churches’ historical outlook, where previously, mental illness was either stigmatized or ignored.

“Mental illness was viewed as demonic,” Perkins said, “a spirit to be cast out or a spell to be broken.”

In which case, the remedy was always prayer, he added.

Dionne Bates, a licensed professional counselor and senior mental health advisor for the Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective, said mental illness has historically been stigmatized within Black communities in general.

She attributes it to the inherited psychological conditioning of Black people as slaves over 400 years ago.

“When you’re not treated as human, you’re not really given permission to have the same rights as those who are considered as human,” Bates said, “in terms of having the right to be tired, having the right to feel sad, or having the right to feel anything except for what you’re told to feel.”

Black people are still unlearning those experiences and realizing they have a right to their emotions, she added.

As a result, a culture of dismissiveness towards mental health within Black communities has persisted, Bates said.

But, that attitude is finally shifting.

“People are hurting more and more,” Bates said. “And I think that our community has got to a point now where we can’t ignore it.”

Younger generations, more aware of mental health than their predecessors, have been a driving force for change within Black churches.

There’s a lot more information out there, experts told IndyStar, more exposure to terms like trauma and depression, unspoken words within Black churches 30 years ago.

Gabrielle Smith, a member of Bethel Cathedral A.M.E., is part of the younger generation influencing change.

“There are some things that may be a little deeper rooted,” Smith said, “and it can’t be prayer alone for it. Sometimes you need to go to somebody that is licensed for certain situations.”

Smith, 31, is a lifetime churchgoer; her granddad was a pastor. But she also was exposed to mental illness early on, raised by a mother who she said was hospitalized for depression during her pregnancy with Smith.

As a result, Smith said her mother encouraged her to talk about mental health.

Jennifer Faulkner, 32, said her generation is less private than older generations.

“We’re not as prideful,” Faulkner said. “We want to get help.”

Faulkner, who said her mother has been clinically diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, believes she’s benefited significantly by the mental health services at Hovey Street Church of Christ.

“I now understand her illness better, which has really strengthened our relationship,” Faulkner said. “It really helped me to love her more, honestly.”

One thing that hasn’t changed, however, is the trust the Black community feels toward the church, a historical “bedrock,” according to Holland.

Whether it was social justice, economics or politics, he said, the church has generally always been a compass and place of refuge for the Black community.

“This is another opportunity to build on that tradition,” Holland continued. “The pastor is a good ambassador to assist and bring mental health awareness to their church.”

Companies expected to drive a resurgence in business travel, but omicron variant looms

By **LAUREN ZUMBACH**
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

Many road warriors’ suitcases and passports have been gathering dust since the COVID-19 pandemic brought business travel to a halt.

That’s not the case at Chicago-based Devbridge, which hosted an all-hands event in Lithuania earlier this year and brought teams from Toronto, London and Lithuania to its Chicago office last month to workshop new products with clients.

The technology consulting firm’s 650 employees are spread across global offices and spent about 20 percent of their time on the road before travel restrictions were imposed in early 2020.

“The moment those were lifted, we had teams flying and visiting clients,” said co-founder and President Aurimas Adomavicius, who expects the company will eventually return to “business as usual” when it comes to employee travel.

“In-person collaboration for high-performing teams for us isn’t optional. It’s necessary,” Adomavicius said.

Corporate travel has been especially hard-hit during the pandemic, as people are quicker to plan vacations than business trips, especially as employers delay reopening offices amid a new wave of infections this fall. The emergence of a new highly transmissible variant, omicron, has added uncertainty about the timing for a broader return to business travel. Just last week, the U.S. imposed

new restrictions on travel from South Africa and seven other countries in the region.

Travel companies say they’re confident road warriors will eventually return, but that doesn’t mean every company’s workers will hit the road as often as they used to. While companies like Devbridge say they’re eager to get back to their globe-trotting ways, others realized they didn’t need to be on the go as much while stuck at home during pandemic lockdowns.

“It’s not just automatically jumping on a plane for an hourlong meeting, it’s proactively working with clients to say, ‘How can we best use our time together?’” said Stephanie Nerlich, CEO of Havas Creative Network for North America.

During the first year or so of the pandemic, the advertising agency, which has about 350 employees in Chicago, did almost no travel because clients weren’t asking for it, Nerlich said. Some began requesting in-person pitches again over the summer, and she still thinks it’s the best way to build relationships. But she’s skeptical employees will be on the road as frequently as they used to be.

Havas and its clients are trying to be more thoughtful about when travel is necessary — for instance, replacing multiple short visits with a longer, more productive session, she said. Limiting travel reduces costs and will help the company hit its goal of being carbon neutral by 2025.

Bounteous, a Chicago-based consulting com-



Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune / TNS

Travelers walk between terminals at O’Hare International Airport on Nov. 28, after the Thanksgiving weekend.

pany that helps brands build online experiences, also plans to be “more strategic” about travel going forward, Chief People Officer Leah Weyandt said.

Before the pandemic, some of Bounteous’s clients only wanted to conduct business in person. Now, everyone is used to Zoom and other virtual work tools.

“They no longer view face-to-face as the only way to accomplish a task,” Weyandt said.

Still, some in-depth work and trust-building is best done in person, she said. When Bounteous bought Atlanta-based commerce and customer experience agency FortyFour last December, the lack of face time made it the company’s “most challenging acquisition to date,” she said.

Approaches vary by company. About 38 percent of business travelers surveyed by Bank of America thought they would travel signifi-

cantly less than before the pandemic, while 31 percent disagreed, according to a November report.

Even as some companies say they plan to pull back on business trips, airline executives were optimistic about a pickup in corporate travel next year on calls discussing their earnings in October.

“What we’ve been told ... is that we should expect really an acceleration of business traffic next year with a lot of pent-up demand. We have a lot of clients that need to get back on the road and they’re anxious to do so,” United Airlines Chief Commercial Officer Andrew Nocella said at the time.


At American Airlines, almost two-thirds of corporate customers are doing at least some essential international business travel, and the airline expects business travel revenues to rebound to 2019 levels by the end of 2022, President Robert Isom said during an earnings call.





Church Directory

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

 **Sweetwater Assembly of God**, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade). All worship services streaming online and on our Facebook page.


BAPTIST


Emmanuel Free Will Baptist, 129 Southwood Drive. Pastor Terry Hinds. (260) 563-3009. Sunday School 9:30am. Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm; Children's Church 10:30am. Wednesday morning prayer service 11am. Wednesday Prayer meeting 6pm. Transportation available. Sunday worship services streaming on our Facebook page

Southside Free Will Baptist, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm. Sunday worship services streaming online

 **Wabash Free Will Baptist Church**, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

CATHOLIC

 **St. Bernard Catholic Church**, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 a.m.


 **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**, Main Street in Lagro Mass Time: 11 a.m. First Sunday of the month throughout the year except January and February. Let us worship together.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

 **Christian Heritage Church**, 2776 River Road. (260) 569-7710. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUZ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm. Online services on Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday 6:00 pm

LaFontaine Christian Church, 202 Bruner Pike, LaFontaine. Minister Brad Wright. (765) 981-2101. Worship 9am & 10:30am, Nursery & Jr. Church available. Online Services available on our website


CHURCH OF CHRIST

 **Church of Christ**, Wabash (corner of N Wabash Street and US 24). Evangelist Josh Fennell (260) 563-8234. Sunday School 9am. Morning Worship 10am. Evening Worship 6:30pm. Wednesday Service 7pm. Wednesday Kid's Jam 7pm.

CHURCH OF GOD

First Church of God, 525 N. Miami Street. Pastor Robert Rensberger. (260) 563-5346. Sunday School at 9:15am, for all ages. Continental breakfast at 10am. Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30am. Nursery care is available during worship service. Stair lift available.


CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

 **Wabash Church of the Brethren**, 645 Bond Street (off Falls Avenue). Pastor Doug Veal. (260) 563-5291. Wherever you are on life's journey, come join us as we continue the work of Jesus... Peacefully, Simply, Together. Sunday School 9:30am. Worship 10:30am. Children's church and nursery available during worship. Online Service through website or conference call.


DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

 **Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**, 110 W. Hill St., Wabash; Stephen Eberhard, Minister; phone: 260-563-4179; website: www.wabashchristian.org. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Find us on YouTube and Facebook.

FRIENDS CHURCH

 **Wabash Friends Church**, 3563 S State Rd 13. (260) 563-8452. Lead Pastor, Brandon Eaton. Join us for in-person worship at 8:30AM or 10:45AM, or via live-stream on Facebook at 10:45AM. Children's programming available infants - 6th grade. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45AM. Youth (7th-12th) Sunday evenings at 6:30PM.

INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH


 **Bachelor Creek Church of Christ**, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Worship Minister - Michael Eaton, Student Minister - David Diener, Children's Minister - Tyler Leland, Middle School & Small Groups Minister - Nate Plyler, Next Steps & Outreach Minister - Ryan Keim, Women's Director- Taylor McFarland, Early Childhood Director - Janet Legesse. Worship 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.


LUTHERAN

Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC), 242 S. Huntington St., Wabash, IN. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. Worship Services live streamed on our website. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

UNITED METHODIST

 **North Manchester United Methodist Church**, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Steve Bahrt. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

 **Richvalley United Methodist Church**, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Pastor Jack Suits. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all age.



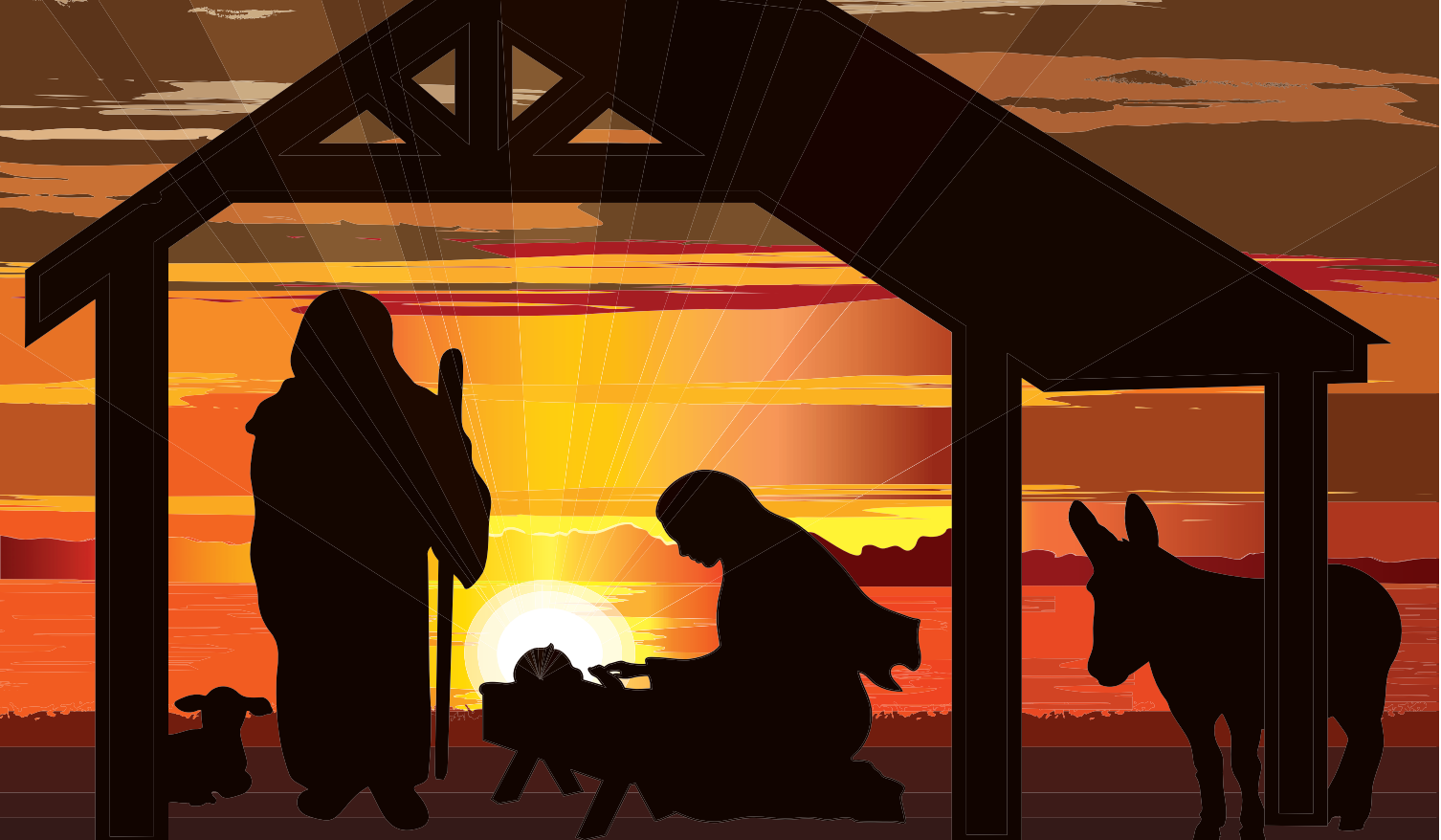
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Daily Devotional Reading						
Matthew 24:29-51	Matthew 25:1-30	Matthew 25:31-46	Daniel 9:1-27	Nehemiah 8:1-18	Esther 9:20-10:3	Job 42:1-17

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WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing before the Wabash County Board of Zoning Appeals on the 28th day of DECEMBER, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission, top floor the Wabash County Court House, Wabash, Indiana.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of: ROGER MARINE for VARIANCE #: 11 VARIANCE FOR LOCATION OF AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE IN A RESIDENTIAL ZONE AND A VARIANCE FROM THE ROAD SETBACK FOR AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE.

The geographical area affected by the changes requested is generally described as: LOT # 3 OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE, LAGRO TOWNSHIP, WABASH COUNTY

A copy of the proposal is now on file in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission and is available for public examination. Any written objections that are filed with the secretary of the Wabash County Plan Commission prior to the hearing will be considered and, at the hearing, the Wabash County Plan Commission will consider any additional comments concerning the application. The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

NOTICE: Indiana Code 36-7-4-920 forbids any person from communicating with a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals before the hearing with the intent to influence a member's action on a matter pending before the Board.

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Infrastructure law has a mandate for tech to stop drunken drivers

By JESSICA WEHRMAN
CQ-Roll Call (TNS)

WASHINGTON — In the months after her sister and brother-in-law and their three children died in a January 2019 crash caused by a drunken driver, Rana Abbas Taylor, consumed by grief, traveled to Washington, D.C., to talk to lawmakers about her loss.

In the midst of that visit, Stephanie Manning, the chief government affairs officer for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, turned to Abbas Taylor. Her sister and her sister's family, Manning vowed, would be the "reason we're going to save thousands of lives in this country."

Now, nearly three years after her loss, Abbas Taylor is closer than ever to seeing that promise come to fruition.

A provision in the 2,702-page bipartisan infrastructure law requires automakers to install anti-drunken driving technology into new automobiles as soon as 2026.

If successful, the law predicts, it could ultimately eliminate some 9,400 of the more than 10,000 drunken-driving deaths in the U.S. each year.

"Truly, this can't happen fast enough," said Alex Otte, president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

But passing a law is one thing. Implementing it is quite another.

Airbags, first available in the early 1970s, were made mandatory by a 1991 law, with full compliance for all passenger cars not coming until model year 1998 and in all SUVs, pickups and vans until model year 1999.

Rearview cameras, first introduced in 1956 as part of the Buick Centurion concept car, didn't become required in new vehicles until 1998. That law wasn't fully implemented until 2018.

Multiple technologies

This time, there are multiple ways technology can curb drunken or impaired driving, with Mothers Against Drunk



Officer L. Arias, from the City of Miami police department, questions a driver at a DUI checkpoint in 2006 in Miami, Fla.

Driving offering more than 240 options to federal regulators.

But advocates fear that arguments over which technology to adopt and bureaucratic hurdles may result in a slow walk to progress that could cost valuable lives.

"There are many roadblocks on the path between now and this being implemented," said Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. "We fully were aware that getting this passed by Congress was a big step, but it's only the first step."

The drunken-driving technology provision, which falls under the \$11 billion road safety portion of the bill, would require the Department of Transportation to issue a rule prescribing a drunken-driving technology safety standard within three years. The bill gives automakers two years to comply but includes language allowing the secretary of Transportation some flexibility if necessary.

Because the bill doesn't specify what technology automakers should use, critics have wondered if the legislation will lead to automakers installing Breathalyzers in every vehicle or technology that consumers would find invasive.

But the law specifies that the technology must be passive, meaning drivers won't be required to breathe into a Breathalyzer to get the car to start or deploy an ignition interlock system that requires

a motorist to blow into a device.

"You will never have to get in your car and do something for your car to start," said Otte, who said the ignition interlock system is a "punitive" measure designed for someone who has already been caught driving drunk.

But critics say that there isn't a fool-proof substitute.

"Reliable passive alcohol detection technology does not exist," Marc Scribner, a senior transportation policy analyst at the libertarian Reason Foundation, wrote in an email. "And it is unclear when or even if it will exist in the future. Despite its best efforts, Congress cannot simply will it into existence."

Researchers have long been looking at different solutions. In 2008, the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety, which represents 17 automotive manufacturers, entered a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop alcohol detection technologies to prevent drunken drivers from operating vehicles.

Among the technologies the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety, or DADSS program, is researching is a passive system that would instantly detect if a driver has been drinking by analyzing ambient air. The group is also studying a touch-based system that would measure blood alcohol levels under the skin's surface by shining an infrared light through the fingertip of the driver. Nei-

ther technology has been deployed by commercial automakers.

But Ken Snyder, a volunteer for MADD who lost his daughter Katie in a 2017 crash caused by a drunken driver, argues that automakers are already including technology in vehicles that can detect drunken, impaired or distracted drivers. In fact, he argues, such technology is an often-unmentioned perk of the surge in autonomous-vehicle technology.

There are two basic types that Snyder says are ready for deployment now: One, a system that integrates sensors outside of vehicles, detects if drivers are veering out of their lane or appear to not be in full control over their vehicle.

The other, driver monitoring systems, uses in-car cameras to determine if a driver takes their eyes off the road, for example, or appears to be nodding off.

Currently, the technology

offers primarily warnings or, in the case of the sensors, automatic braking. But Snyder said a simple coding tweak would turn that existing technology into true lifesavers, with cars that now gently remind drivers of their errors, or pull over in extreme cases.

For her part, Chase said the billions of dollars the auto industry has spent developing autonomous vehicles could be part of the solution. "The technology is there," she said. "They're all more or less building blocks on the path to autonomous vehicles."

Still, "it's not going to happen overnight," she said.

Automakers ready

For their part, however, automakers say they'll comply, with Auto Innovators President and CEO John Bozzella saying in a written statement that the bill "further the possibility for advanced technologies to help address the risk of impaired driving. NHTSA, meanwhile, in a statement

vowed to "work expeditiously to meet its Congressional mandates."

But Scribner said there's language in the law that gives regulators wiggle room.

He said the bill is written in such a way as to give the secretary of Transportation latitude on implementation, giving the secretary the ability to evade the deadline by submitting a report to Congress explaining why. Because of the state of the technology and unresolved issues, Scribner said, he believes that such a report will be the most likely outcome.

"With this mandate, Congress has most likely just mandated another future report to itself," he wrote.

Chase, of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, is optimistic.

"If there are ways to get out of something, I'm always worried about it," she said. "But [the language] is somewhat standard language in legislative text."

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